

「真剣に尋問しても美少女たちが絶頂するのは何故だろう……」

Why do pretty girls feel orgasm even if you seriously interrogate?

玉女様の 高級尋問官

Princess's High-ranking Interrogator

著 月之介 兎
画 睦茸 竜

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Illustrations



エルフィリア

ヴァージニア王国の第二
王女。アレンを「高級尋問
官」に任命する。アレンに
叱られるのが大好き。



玉女様の
高級尋問官
著 兎月竜之介
画 睦茸


「真剣に尋問しても美少女たちが
絶頂するのは何故だろう？」

「これ以上は……んっ！」

ダメになっちゃう、からっ……」

尻叩き責め





Top Left: Elphilia – The second princess of the Kingdom of Virginia. Appoints Allen as a “high-ranking interrogator”. She loves to be scolded by Allen.

Left: “No more.....mm! It’s gonna mess me up.....”

Bottom Right: Torture by One Hundred Ass Slaps

{The rest of the Japanese text is the Novel title, Author (Uzuki Ryunosuke), and Illustrator (Mutsutake). Btw, the subtitle of volume 1 is “~*Why do pretty girls cum even if you seriously interrogate them?*~“}



「あっ♡

そんなところに指入れちゃダメだよっ♡」



第一の刺客

マリー

.....
キトゥン
猫系獣人の少女。強がり
な性格だが本当は乙女の
ような心をもっていて……。

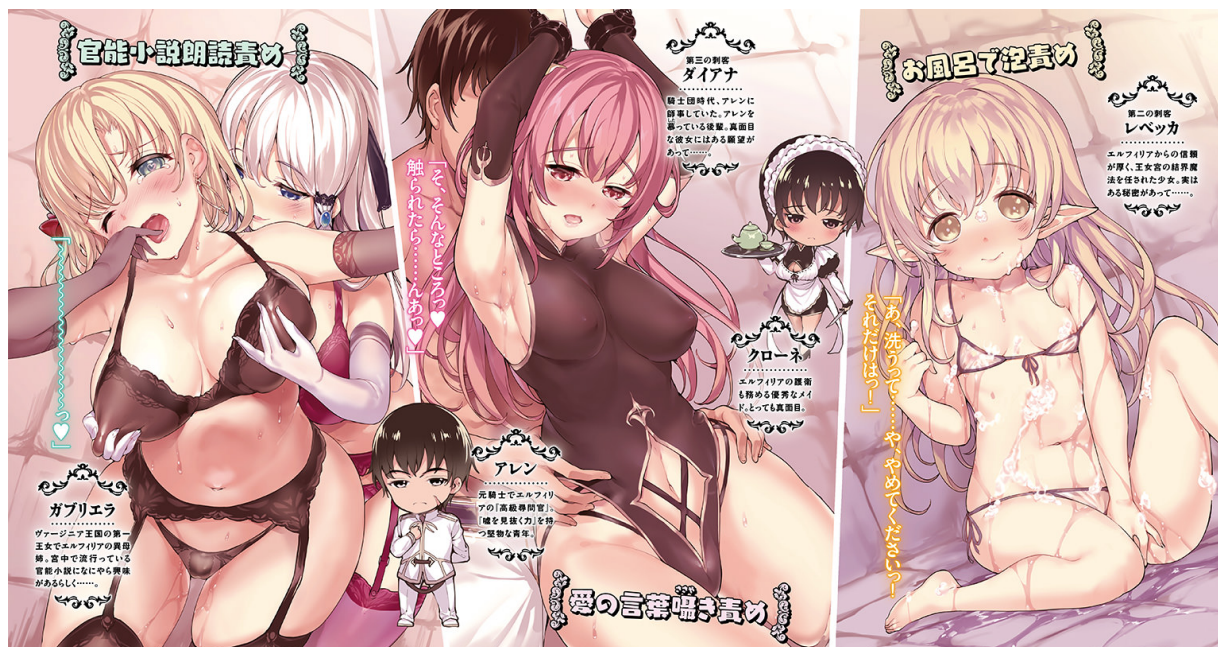


ローション
薬液マッサージ責め

Bottom Left: The First Agent Marie – A cat-type beastfolk girl. She has a strong personality, but she really has the heart of a maiden.....

Top Right: “Aah♥ Don’t put your finger in there♥”

Bottom Right: Torture by Chemical Solution (Lotion) Massage



Right/Top Right: The Second Agent Rebecca – A girl who enjoys Elphilia’s trust and is responsible for the warding magic of the princess palaces. In fact, she has a secret.....

Right/Bottom Left: “Erm, washing... N-no, please don’t do that! Something like that is...!”

Right/Top Left: Torture by Bubble Bath

Center/Middle Right: Kurone – An excellent maid who also serves as Elphilia’s bodyguard. She is very diligent.

Center/Bottom Left: Allen – A former knight and Elphilia’s “High-Ranking Interrogator”. He is a stubborn young man with the “Power to See Through Lies”

Center/Top Right: Third Agent Diana – When she was a member of the Knights, she studied under Allen. She is a junior who adores Allen. She is a sincere girl but has certain desires.....

Center/Middle Left: “No, not there♥ If you touch me there, I’ll go..... maah♥”

Center/Bottom Right: Torture by Whispered Words of Love

Left/Bottom Left: Gabriella – The first princess of the Kingdom of Virginia and half-sister of Elphilia. She seems to have some interest in the sensual novels that are popular among the palace staff.....

Left/Middle Left: “{Inarticulate crying}♥”

Left/Top Center: Torture by Reading an Erotic Novel



One afternoon, the interrogation is done for today.

Chapter 1 - One Hundred Strikes for the Princess

“Are you certain you want to quit?”

The Knight Commander has a grim expression on his face at his office desk.

A young man was visiting the office of the Knight Commander to give his final greeting. The young man was wearing the formal attire of the Royal Order of Knights, a dark blue collared uniform. He has a magnificent physique that causes the collar of his uniform to burst, while his face is handsome with well defined angles and his black hair, which has grown out carelessly, has a soft and moist texture. He is undoubtedly an attractive man, but his countenance has lost its youthful vigor, and his heroic knightly spirit was fading.

“I made up my mind when I saw the doctor.”

“I see.....”

The Knight Commander casts down his eyes with regret.

It was rare to see the great bearded man, who would turn forty this year, so dejected in the presence of company.

“It is a shame to lose you, who was feared by bandits as ‘The Grim Reaper’s Eyes’.”

“I’m as useful as a dead man. All I was good for was fighting the enemies of my country. If I can no longer do so, there’s no point in remaining in the Royal Order.”

“A man of your ability can serve his country even without going into battle. Your return would be enough to boost the morale of the entire order. I have no intention of forcing your hand, but.....”

The Knight Commander’s expression tightens.

“Remember to broaden your horizons. Fighting isn’t all there is to life. If you are ever in trouble, knock on the door of the Royal Order. We’ll always welcome you. I have a feeling you will be busy from now on.”

“Thank you for your consideration.”

Even as he said this, the young man felt the emptiness in his words. He knows that the Knight Commander would notice. For the young man, the Knight Commander is a second father. It was painful to betray his father’s expectations. However, it would be more difficult for him to stay behind when he could not accomplish what needed to be done.

The young man leaves his office. The sound of the office door closing was heavy, as if they were the iron gates of a prison.

The Kingdom of Virginia exists on the western coast of a huge continent. The kingdom has enjoyed peace for the last three hundred years.

The young man of twenty-two years, Allen Brackish, was a member of the kingdom’s Royal Order of Knights.

Born into the prestigious Brackish family of knights, Allen had trained from a young age with the goal of becoming a knight. When he joined the Royal Order at the age of fifteen, he fought against bandits and demons that afflicted the people. He was so active that he was directly commended by the king as an excellent knight, and was promoted to commander at the young age of twenty.

It can be said that his life was smooth sailing, with the exception of matters of romance..... in fact, women seemed to avoid him. It was half a year ago that his life took an unfortunate turn.

Allen's expeditionary force was caught in a sudden landslide. In a catastrophe that killed or injured more than a dozen people, Allen himself suffered serious injuries to both legs. He recuperated for half a year until he could walk, but sequelae remained on both legs. If he exercises for a long time, his muscles will cramp. This would be deadly to an active knight.

Whenever the common people need help, he rushes to subdue monsters and rogues... Allen wanted to be that kind of knight. Now that this dream is out of reach, he has become a surprisingly empty person.

Allen returns to his unit's dormitory to pack up his luggage. The familiar room fills him with regrets. Coupled with the view of the evening scenery out of the window, it made him feel even more sentimental.

His weapons and armor had been supplied, and he doesn't have many personal belongings, so his luggage fits in one bag. When he changes from his military uniform to plain clothes, his return to his hometown finally feels like a reality.

Just as he was ready to leave, a knock is heard from the door to the room

(Who could it be at a time like this?)


Did a fellow member of the Royal Order come to stall him? He had told them that they don't need to see him off and that he has no intention of changing his mind.

When he opens the door, a maid stood outside of the room. She looks about eighteen years old. She has black hair cut short that suits her brown skin. Her narrow eyes look dignified and she her air makes it clear that she does her job well. She is about average height, whereas Allen is quite tall, so the maid naturally looked up at him.

(This is strange.....)

At first glance, Allen is suspicious. This woman is probably no ordinary maid. The way she carries herself was like a master of some martial arts, and a bulge in her clothes suggests she also had a small weapon concealed.





“You are Allen Brackish, aren’t you?”

“Yes, I am.”

“I have come deliver a letter.”

“A letter?”

The brown maid hands him an envelope. It was sealed with bright red candle wax.

“...Is this seal!?”

Allen eye’s widened.

“A winged heart symbol... Isn’t this the personal emblem of the second princess, Elphilia Virginia?”

There are five queens in the Kingdom of Virginia.

In the order in which they married the king they are called the first queen, the second queen, and so on. And the daughters of the queens are also called after their mothers.

There are six such princesses, while in contrast not a single prince was born. Elphilia Virginia is, after all, a genuine princess born between the king of Virginia and the second queen.

“Please read it.”

“...Right.”

At the maid’s urging, Allen takes the letter from the envelope. The letter simply said, “Please visit the Princess Palace after sunset.”

“Why did this come to me...”

Allen's incredulity deepens. He'd met the second princess Elphilia... but only once six years ago. Allen at the time was sixteen years old and had just joined the Royal Order of Knights, and Elphilia was a child of only ten years old. They were face to face for less than an hour. He remembers that he was scolded a lot by the Knight Commander when he found out. During that first meeting, he was so nervous that he couldn't now remember what he had said to her.

"You're sure this isn't a mistake, right? "

"I am sure there is no mistake. This is an order from Elphilia-sama."

"...I see."

In that case, Allen couldn't ignore a direct command from the princess.

Even if he quit the Royal Order, Allen still has his chivalry and patriotism. Besides, the situation could be urgent. This maid is probably Elphilia's bodyguard. They probably sent someone who knows how to fight, just in case.

"Please show me the way."

"Thank you. Then please come with me..."

Allen leaves the dormitory with the brown maid. A two-horse wagon was waiting in front of the building. The two board the wagon and after about a thirty minute ride through the castle town arrive at the royal palace.

The two disembark the wagon and continue into the ground floor of the royal palace. When they went outdoors again from the royal palace, it was into a backyard. Beyond the vast grasslands, there is a thick forest. And from the trees lined up in the forest, they could see five smaller palaces protruding.

"Is this the 'princess section'?"

"This is a space reserved only for the six princesses to live in. Except for the ones invited by the princesses, boys are forbidden, so please be careful

not to leave my sight.”

A second two-horse wagon was waiting in the backyard of the royal palace.

They once again swayed in the wagon and by the time the sun had fully set behind the trees..... Allen and the maid arrived at the castle of the second princess nestled in the forest.

The castles where the princess's live are called the Princess Palaces. The Princess Palace of Elphilia is made of glossy, pure white stone and had a solemn appearance, more like a temple rather than a castle.

Guided by the brown maid, Allen steps into the palace. Because of a rare luminescent ore that is used for lighting, the inside of the palace is as bright as noon. The two take a staircase in the entrance hall and head to the fifth and top floor. When they arrive, the door is right in front of them. The top floor has a structure that protrudes like a tower from the castle, and it seems that Elphilia's own room is the only room on the whole floor.

“Please enter, Allen-sama.”

The brown maid opens the door, and Allen enters the princess's room.

Since it occupies the entire floor, Elphilia's room was spacious. The south side of the room opens to a balcony creating a sense of openness. The pale moonlight illuminates the balcony creating a magical atmosphere.

Allen can feel the elegance from the furnishings. A canopy bed, a vanity table, a violin, flute, and other musical instruments were all used and polished.

A large bookshelf in the corner of the room is lined with books that would be read by specialists. The owner of the room must be very talented and studious.

The maid bows her head reverently.

“Elphilia-sama, I've brought him.”

“...Right on time.”

At a tea table in the center of the room sits Elphilia enjoying a cup of tea. The luxurious aroma wafts through the air and Allen’s nerves relax slightly. The second princess, Elphilia Virginia, is sixteen years old. She is quite petite and looks young from a distance, but her profile as she enjoys the tea is mature and full of the elegance that is characteristic of royalty.

She wears a pure white ultra-thin dress like the robes of a goddess. If Allen were to strain his eyes he might just be able to see through the fabric to the soft skin on the other side. Even more bewitching than the dress is the silver hair that is synonymous with Elphilia. Her silver hair that hangs to the waist shines faintly in the pale moonlight, swaying as if to tempt anyone who looked at it.

(Deep blue eyes... I feel like I’m going to be sucked in if I stare too much.)

Each of the ornaments is exquisite, but they look cheap compared to the enchanting beauty of their mistress.

Elphilia looks at Allen and smiles with satisfaction.

From her smile, he feels the affection of a mother looking at a beloved child, and at the same time, like she is looking down on him from an overwhelmingly high place. At only sixteen year old, she had perfected the manner in which royalty should address the people.

Allen knelt on the spot... no, he didn’t kneel down by himself, but in the face of Elphilia’s overwhelming presence he couldn’t help but do so out of admiration.

The image of Elphilia in Allen’s mind had been frozen six years ago. He had felt a sense of elegance from her at that time, but he didn’t think she had grown to this extent.

“Thank you for your hard work, Kurone. Can you please give us privacy?”

“Certainly, Elphilia-sama.”

The brown maid, called Kurone, leaves the room.

(Isn't it insane for the princess to be alone with a man who is practically a stranger to her?)

He was so nervous that he could hear the sound of his own heartbeat. For Allen, this situation is more frightening than being thrown into a swarm of demons.

“Raise your face, Allen Brackish”

“Y, ye...!”

Allen looks up as he was told.

He wondered when she had come closer. Elphilia is looking at his face, so close that they could feel each other's breath. She has her blue eyes on him with a gaze as if she is sizing him up. There is a mysterious glow in her eyes, like a twinkling star.

“Princess, you can't!”

Allen involuntarily jumps back. Elphilia giggles like a child whose prank had succeeded. Despite her innocent look, Allen is drawn to her glossy lips.

Perhaps because he spent his youth in the Royal Order of Knights, an organization dominated by men, that he is easily swayed by a woman's sex appeal. He usually covers it up by putting up a tough guy front, but he can't take a rude attitude in front of the princess.

“It's been a long time, Allen”

Elphilia's calls him by his name casually. Allen was even more confused, but knelt down again on the spot.

“...Oh, it's been a long time, Princess”

“Call me Elphilia”

“...E, Elphilia-sama”

“Muu...”

Elphilia purses her lips in a bit of frustration.

(Does she want me to just use her name..... No, that can't be the case.)

Allen shakes off his wild imagination.

Elphilia cleared her throat with cough to compose herself.

“Do you know the situation in the royal palace?”

“Yes, to some extent ...”

The royal palace... No, the Kingdom of Virginia is at a major turning point. The whole kingdom is talking about one thing recently.

“The king has been getting sick more often and is thinking about naming a successor...”

Six half-sisters of the king's blood... Which one of them will succeed to the throne has yet to be decided.

“According to old traditions a child of the royal bloodline will inherit the throne, regardless of gender. The right to inherit the throne is given in order from the first child.....”

If the decision went by this tradition, there would be no concerns.

I want to change the country by becoming queen, I want to gain wealth and honor, I don't want to lose to my other sisters... There are many reasons to fight for the throne.

Even the king himself would want the best person to inherit to the throne. However, the king himself had fought with his half-brothers, and it is rumored that he is even considering a referendum.

“But I’ve heard neither the king nor the princesses have made any moves so far...”

“You’re mostly right.”

Elphilia brushes back her silver hair.

“However, the fighting has already begun.”

“Is Elphilia-sama already in danger?”

She nods to Allen’s question. A cold sensation rises in the pit of his stomach. If this fact were to come to light, the people would be very upset, and the neighboring countries would try to take advantage of the situation. In the worst case, the three hundred years of peace and tranquility of the Kingdom of Virginia enjoyed could be shattered.

“I’m not interested in the throne, but I have to shake off the sparks of fire that come my way. Allen... That’s why I need your power.”

“My power?”

“I’d like to hire you as my bodyguard. However, that’s only ostensibly.”

“Clandestine work then... is that what this is all about?”

He had suspected this when he was told the truth about the succession battle, but it seems that the work is something that cannot be revealed to the public.

(She’s not going to ask me to become a hitman, is she?)

His anxiety must have been showing on his face, for Elphilia says...

“Don’t worry, I’m not going to make you an assassin or anything.”

...as if seeing through Allen’s mind.

“Rather, I’m going to have you deal with assassins.”

“Isn’t that exactly a bodyguard?”

“I have enough bodyguards. I have a number of skilled fighters among my maids, including Kurone whom you met earlier. In fact, they just caught an assassin sent in to defeat me. Of course, I also know about the injury to your legs.”

“Then, you should know there’s nothing I can do.....”

“Allen, let’s see if you’re a good fit. I can’t tell you the specifics of the job until I can determine that you’re qualified. My command... will you listen to it.”

Elphilia whispers this word in Allen’s ear.

“Command...”

He ruminates on princess’s direct words.

“...I’ll accept.”

Allen surprised himself with how quickly he made the decision. He still has his pride as a former knight. To refuse here would never be allowed by the chivalry within Allen that honors devotion to a noble lady.

In the first place, it was a princess of the country who had invited him to her room to ask for a favor. Even if he was not a knight, it would be unmanly for him to argue with her and not listen to what she had to say. It is no longer possible to live the same way as before. But at least the pride in Allen has not disappeared. It would be too pathetic to abandon everything because of one or two injuries.

“Then my first command.”

Elphilia told the enthusiastic Allen.

“Call me by my first name.”

“Eh...!!”

Unable to comprehend her intentions, Allen is immediately thrown. Elphilia folds her arms proudly and looks down at him as he knelt down.

“What’s the matter? Hurry and address me.”

“Ah, yes..... but.....”

Allen challenges his bewildered self.

(What’s wrong with you Allen Brackish! Was your determination all a lie?)

He does not know what Elphilia’s intentions are, but he will obey the order she has given him. Allen takes a deep breath and becomes keenly aware that this is also a mission. Then, the beating of his heart, which had been racing, slows to a normal pace. The sweat that had been beading up on his skin begins to subside, and his mind sharpens into a calm and collected state.

This is the same as when he was a Royal Knight and went out to the battlefield. Before going into battle, he was nervous and anxious. However, when it came time to fight, Allen found himself strangely calm. Perhaps it was the prestigious lineage he had inherited that helped him.

“...Elphilia”

“Don’t use such a gentle voice. Try to sound more derogatory!”

Elphilia’s face shows a stern expression.

Allen raises his voice as if he was scolding his subordinates.

“Elphilia!”

“Nn... it’s still not enough.”

Elphilia’s body gives a small jerk. Perhaps her heart is a little moved, for her gaze begins to move from side to side. She is blinking more often and her cheeks are slightly flushed. She was frightened by his intimidating

attitude, but tried to maintain her poise, a reaction typical of a young girl of her age.

Allen stands up and approaches Elphilia. Since Allen is nearly two heads taller than her, Elphilia has to look straight up at him.

“Hii——”

Letting out a drawn out scream, Elphilia takes a step back.

Allen was accustomed to intimidating monsters and ruffians because of his work. With the solid physique and stern face inherited from his father. it is not difficult to play the role of a strong man or villain.

Perhaps because she was able to confirm the qualities within Allen, Elphilia is clearly frightened, but is also wearing a happy smile.

“More, Allen... more, crush my spirit...”

“Elphilia!”

“Nnnnngg.....”

While Allen shouted at her as if he is trying to intimidate her, Elphilia’s body shakes convulsively and she hugs herself tightly to hold it in place. The ultra-thin dress sticks to her sweaty skin, and her fair skin has become visible through it.



“Haa... haa...”

Elphilia’s breaths are hot and heavy.

Her sweat-soaked skin looks so smooth that it is hard to believe that she is the same person he met six years ago. Her blue eyes, moistened with tears, stirred a passion that was supposed to have been kept deep in his heart.

“You pass the first stage..... but the real test starts here.”

Elphilia staggers to the tea table and places her hands down on it. She casually turns her back toward Allen and sticks out her hips.

(A girl of her age... even more, a princess, is dressed like that in front of a man.)

As Allen wonders what Elphilia was thinking, she lifted the skirt of her dress with one hand. What emerges from under the skirt was a pair of buttocks that is so well developed that he never would have guessed it from her petite figure.

The silk underwear she is wearing was elegant at first glance, with no unnecessary decoration, but the fabric is so tiny that her beautiful raw ass is exposed like a full moon. The translucent soft skin is without a single blemish, and it looks elastic and full of vigor.

“There’s a horse riding whip on the shelf there.”

Elphilia points him where to look. On the shelves where the musical instruments are displayed, there are also various types of riding gear.

The whip has a fairly slender shape, and might more accurately be described as a pliant stick.

“Now, you are going to use that to whip my ass to the limit.”

“Eh—”

The hesitation that should have been suppressed surges back up all at once. It took all his willpower to be able to call the princess by her name. But now to take a whip to that same princess.

“You are no longer a knight.”

Elphilia says as if she had read Allen’s mind again.

“And... I’m not a princess either. Right now I’m just Elphilia.”

“...I understand.”

The princess has shown her own determination. Allen, his hesitation overshadowed by her resolve, approaches Elphilia with a heavy step.

“But I won’t need such a tool.”

“Eh?”

Elphilia’s eyes flutter in surprise. Allen first supports her abdomen with his left hand. He knew from the silhouette of her dress that she had a slender figure, but when he actually supports her, she feels as light as if he were holding a feather pillow. It is easy to lift her up, and he is confident that he can keep hold of her no matter how much she struggles.

As he looks again at Elphilia’s raw ass, a strange feeling comes over him. Allen recognizes it immediately. Many times when he was fighting on the battlefield, he had been struck by the same sensation. Old wounds and untrained areas of an opponent’s body..... In other words, he could see their weak points.

“Let’s begin.”

Allen raises his right hand high and on Elphilia’s soft rear..... slams his palm into the right side of the twin hills. A high-pitched strike like a bolt of lightning echoes...

“Hnngh.”

...and in response, Elphilia leaks out a sweet voice that could not be considered ladylike. Her body responds as well. Elphilia's limbs begin to tremble and her skin begins to sweat. A vivid, red handprint is left on the spot Allen's hand struck. Her eyes were filled with tears, and her teeth were exposed as she bit down.

Apparently, as Allen sensed, the ass was a major weak point for her.

(Is this the quality Elphilia-sama wanted to make sure of?)

He never thought that his battle-hardened intuition would be useful for spanking.....

While wondering about this strange twist, Allen strikes a second blow upon Elphilia's left cheek. The high-pitched blows echoed so loudly that they could almost be heard throughout the entire princess palace, not just in this room.

“Noo... ah, ah, ah...”

Elphilia writhes arounds, disarranging her hair, but tries to hold back the tremors in her limbs. Allen continues to pound her ass without pause, not wanting to give her time to rest. With each slap of his palm, Elphilia lets out a yelp. With each new smack her face becomes tense with unbearable pain, but in between Allen catches her occasionally looking up at his face and smiling with elation.

(Can you really afford to smile...)

Elphilia seems to be more tenacious than Allen had expected.

An indescribable smell is rising from her body as she continues to endure the spanking. The smell of sweet peach perfume mingled with the scent of flying sweat, a truly tantalizing smell. However, there is also a hint of obscenity that one would not expect from a noble woman.

(So even Elphilia-sama is a woman at heart...)

Then, when he had hit each side about ten times.

“Wa, wait! Th, that’s enough! Enough!”

Elphilia barely squeezes the yell from the back of her throat.

“Really! No more.....mm! It’s gonna mess me up.....”

Allen stops his right hand from swinging down again.

Elphilia’s rear end, after being repeatedly beaten, has turned red as a ripe peach. Her limbs barely have the strength to support her body, and she trembles like a newborn fawn. Her brow is wrinkled up and he could clearly see she was straining her whole body.

“Haa... haa ... You have the qualities I wanted. You passed...”

Elphilia’s half-open mouth is dripping with sloppy drool.

Her beautiful silver hair is disheveled as if blown by a strong wind, from how violently her body twisted whenever she was slapped on the buttocks.

(It’s a wonderful sight...)

Allen is honestly impressed.

A princess of this country put her body through so much until she looked like this. He doesn’t think of her as pathetic or miserable, only that she is beautiful.

Elphilia calms her breathing before she speaks.

“Allen Brackish. I am appointing you as my high-ranking interrogator.”

“High-ranking interrogator... what exactly is it?”

Allen asks, not being familiar with that title. Inquisitor is a real job title. Their job is to question criminals and prisoners of war, and whether this job is done properly or amounts to inhumane torture... it depends mostly on the interrogator’s individual skill.

“I’ll ask you to interrogate the assassins sent against me.”

“I see, is that what’s going on.”

Allen understands why she could not tell him what the job entailed until she was sure he was qualified. A person who could ostensibly be hired as a bodyguard would need to have a certain social status and talent equal to that status. Further, the person must not be already involved with another faction in the succession battle.

“The princess section is generally reserved for women, so the assassins who are sent for me will probably be women, too. The first assassin we have already captured came to my princess palace as a maid servant.”

“Am I supposed to interrogate women?”

“You already have.”

Elphilia smiles wryly.

“You were able to spank my, the second princess’s, ass until it was red, weren’t you? There was no hesitation in the way you spanked me. Since you were able to do such a thing to me, you have nothing to worry about from any assassins.”

Allen is astonished at what he had done. For a man of chivalry, this should be tantamount to blasphemy.

“This is all because of Elphilia-sama’s benevolence.”

“All I did was have my ass beaten”

“No, it was your conviction that gave me this opportunity to serve the kingdom again.”

“O-oh? Well, that’s good.”

Elphilia suddenly turns her face away from Allen. He cannot see her expression clearly, but he can tell that her mouth is moving in a whimper.

When she turns around after a few seconds, Elphilia has a serious expression on her face again.

“Your second name..... ‘The Grim Reaper’s Eyes’, wasn’t it?”

“That’s what certain bandits used to call me.”

“I have heard that you had two outstanding abilities. The first is the power to detect weaknesses..... When on the battlefield you were able to attack old wounds, even if they were hidden from view, or areas that your opponent hadn’t been training.”

Elphilia glances down at her reddened ass.

“When you spanked me, I felt like you had found my weak spot, too.”

“It was thanks to Elphilia-sama that I realized how to use this power.”

“Some of the assassins will be trained to withstand interrogation. They’ll be strong against pain, and it won’t be effective to just try to beat them senseless. Only by effectively targeting their weak points can we get information out of them without seriously harming the interrogation subject. And, your second ability is.....”

“I understand. I’ll prove it to you now.”

“Eh?”

Allen secures her body with his left hand.

“You told me to take your ass to its limit, but Elphilia-sama’s body hasn’t quite reached its limit yet.”

His first ability is what led him to be called “The Grim Reaper’s Eyes”. His second ability is the power to see through lies. This is nothing magical. When fighting monsters and rogues, it was just about spotting a feint attack or an enemy trying to mislead him.

It seems that this ability can also be used to see when someone is getting close to their limit, as he witnessed when he was spanking Elphilia. Pain, exhaustion, embarrassment, fear..... there are many ways to do it.

(Elphilia-sama is currently around eighty-percent... No, only about seventy-percent so far.)

As expected of a princess, she's talented. Her acting ability almost deceived Allen at the end. Perhaps he was unconsciously holding himself back as a result.

"We'll have to assess your limits."

Allen raises his right palm and slams it into Elphilia's bottom.

"Hiiiiah!? Wh-what are..."

A thunderous, sharp sound echoes through the air, and her sweat splatters in all directions.

Elphilia's back arches as if suspended by a thread. Her whole body tenses up, unable to take the impact, and Allen slaps her again.

Even after he had spanked her on the left and right each more than twenty times, Elphilia's raw butt does not lose its elasticity, but rather sticks to his palm at the moment it makes contact.

"Gu..... uu...♥ I can't... no more.....♥"

Elphilia begs him, but she wants to confirm his abilities. For that reason, Allen can't cut corners here.

"I'm at my limit, so....."

"Don't lie to me, Elphilia"

"Ah♥ Call me Elphilia again..... aaahnn♥"

Allen suddenly grabs her reddened ass tightly with his right hand. Elphilia's entire body stiffened and went rigid from head to toe.

"This... this isn't fair..."

"Don't try to talk. You'll bite my tongue."

"Ye, yehiii...♥"

Allen steels his heart and keeps hitting Elphilia's ass. And yet, he also remembers his desire to reach her heart. He doesn't hit her out of hate. He wants the interrogation to end as quickly as possible, without hurting her..... With that kind of compassion, Allen swings his right palm down on Elphilia's bare ass again. And as if in response to his feelings, her screams gradually become more colorful.

Finally, it was time to finish the hundredth shot with the left and right sides combined.

"No... more... sto...pp....."

Elphilia's limbs are completely drained of strength, and she falls limply face down on the tea table she had been using to hold herself up. A strand of drool hangs from her lips, and she has completely turned into an idiot. She gaze is totally blank, as if she is daydreaming.

Elphilia's raw backside, after suffering a hundred smacks, has turned from the color of a pale peach to that of a bright red apple just ripe enough to eat. At a glance, he suspected it would be irritated just by touching the air, and if he traced the surface with his fingertips, she would feel a greater numbness than from the spanking.

The carpet under their feet is soaked where puddles of sweat had formed.

Not only did Elphilia have to endure the pain, but also the mental exhaustion.

"St, stop... stop, heh..."

Elphilia isn't able to speak.

Allen's gut told him that she wasn't acting. Now that it was clear she was at her limit, no more spanking is needed.

"Excuse me, Elphilia-sama."

Allen holds Elphilia's body in his arms. Her ultra-thin dress was heavy with sweat.

"Kyaa... A-Allen?"

"I'll carry you to the bed."

Allen lays Elphilia down on the canopy bed. Then, as if she had timed it perfectly, Kurone, the maid, entered the room.

"Allen-dono, please leave the rest to me."

Kurone takes a glass bottle from a cupboard and climbs onto Elphilia's bed. The glass bottle was filled with a thick, milky-white liquid.

"This is a medicine prepared by Elphilia-sama herself. If the interrogation subject is injured, please apply this to the affected area. It also has a simple cosmetic effect."

"I, I see....."

(If she's asking me to apply it, does that mean I the one who will be rubbing it on?)

No way, Allen shakes off his strange imagination.

Kurone pours a dollop of the solution into each hand and begins to smear it on Elphilia's buttocks.

"Hyaahii! Ku-Kurone, not so hard....."

“Elphilia-sama, if you move around too much, I won’t be able to apply it evenly.”

“Bu-but, it really stings.....nn... hya!”

Elphilia buries her face in her pillow and endures the pain of being coated in the medicine. From the side, she looks like a child holding a stuffed animal. Her bottom is shiny from the medicine, and it looks more and more like a full moon in the night sky.

Allen kneels by her bedside.

“My apologies, Elphilia-sama.”

“Allen... there’s no need for you to apologize.”

Elphilia’s voice is trembling.

Despite being worn out to her limit, her appearance while trying to act like a princess is so admirable that it touches Allen’s heart.

“So I’m happy to be beaten by you, and I was able to confirm that you have the right qualities. Well, I had already experienced your power to see through lies six years ago though.”

“Six years ago..... Aah?”

How could he have forgotten?

Allen finally remembers that time. Six years ago, at the age of ten, Elphilia was famous throughout the kingdom as an out-of-control, mischievous child. The adults around her had given up on rehabilitating her and avoided even getting close to her.

“I was a 16-year-old novice knight at that time.”

“I remember that day fondly. You chased after me and asked if the turmoil in the royal palace was my work. I tried to keep my mouth shut, but you

saw right through me. Even though you were young, you weren't afraid of me, a royal..."

"When I misbehaved in my family home, I was scolded by the old gardener and the servants."

"You must have had a wonderful upbringing."

Elphilia seems to be envious from the bottom of her heart. It must have been for something that was out of her reach as a member of the royal family.

"Do you remember what you said after you caught me? 'Don't lie to me, Elphilia.' It wasn't princess or Elphilia-sama that you called me."

"I'm sorry I was so rude."

"But it made me happy. Back then, I didn't have any one to scold me."

Her entranced look on Elphilia's face shows that she is not faking her words.

Being happy from a scolding. It's a joy that ordinary people like Allen can't understand because they had experienced it from a young age.

"The indescribable joy of being accused by you..... I have never forgotten that feeling for a single day. I want you to scold me more. I'll shed the decorum of a princess..... I want you to see all of me, imperfect and sniveling, naked. That's what makes me happy!"

Elphilia's excited expression was so charming that Allen had to quickly look away from her.

(I lost my composure in an instant.....)

Allen was ruthlessly beating Elphilia's ass earlier, while she was whimpering like a feral animal..... Now the situation is completely reversed. He begins to wonder if he would be able to interrogate the female assassins at this rate.

(No, it's not a question of whether I can do it or not... I'll definitely get it done!)

Allen, with his determination renewed, turns back to Elphilia.

“I will take the job of high-ranking interrogator.”

“I'm counting on you, Alle...naa!? Kurone, it stings there!”

Elphilia looks back and protests.

Contrary to Allen's first impression, Kurone seems to treat Elphilia warmly.

“The areas where it stings the most are where I need to spread the most medicine...”

“Mmm! Gentler! Careful!”

“But I originally specialized in fighting.....”

The conversation between the two was so amusing that Allen feels relieved for the first time today..... No, if anything, it was the first time he has felt relief since his legs were badly injured. Even if his legs will never fully recover, he can fill in the lost pieces of his life with something else. He feels as if Elphilia had taught him that.

“Well, it looks like we're going to be very busy tomorrow.”

Elphilia breathes in sharply.

“We need to bring in Allen's luggage and prepare his uniforms and weapons!”

“Bring it in... eh?”

Allen's eyes widen. Elphilia grins.

“You're going to live here. Isn't that obvious?”

“Isn’t the princess section forbidden to men?”

“Not if it’s a man invited by a princess. You don’t mind sharing a room with me, do you?”

“I do mind! That would be a big problem!”

Although he was supposed to act as a bodyguard, he’d never heard of a guard living with a princess.

Elphilia ignores Allen’s complaints.

“Kurone, may I ask you to make the arrangements immediately.”

“Certainly, Elphilia-sama.”

The conversation between the princess and the maid goes on in this manner.

(This is... what the hell is going on? Maybe Elphilia-sama is trying to make sure I don’t have any ill intentions? I thought I was interrogating her, but was she probing me the entire time?)

Allen reminds himself that this is the time for chivalry. Elphilia is the second princess and will be responsible for the future of the Kingdom of Virginia... It would be unforgivable to be drawn in by her sex appeal of such a woman and indulge his lustful desires. Allen determines to protect her from the assassins with the same resolve that he had on the battlefield.

“Hyawa!? Ku-Kurone, you can’t go there! It tickles!”

“But, I have to properly spread it all the way to your sides.”

“You’re touching a weird place! You’re touching a weird place...ahnn♥”

Are they just joking around like girls their age should, or are they acting this way because of the nervousness from being targeted by assassins?

Unable to decide whether he should be relieved or cautious, Allen smiled grimly.

Chapter 2 - The Fashionable Cat Burglar

A few days have passed since Allen was appointed as a high-ranking interrogator. He is visiting Elphilia in her room in the late afternoon. Allen had changed into his guard uniform. Similar to that of the Royal Order of Knights, it has a high collar, but this one is made of pure white fabric giving it a sense of luxury and refinement. Just wearing the uniform naturally made him feel more relaxed.

“It looks good on you. The perfect image of a knight.”

Elphilia has an entranced look on her face.

She circles around him at a leisurely pace and looks over his uniform as if she is licking it with her eyes. She looks as innocent as a little child who has just seen a horse for the first time in her life, but there is a certain luster in her eyes as she examines him.

Her slender yet sensual body, which shows through her thin, white dress, and the sweet and fragrant scent of a woman that rises from her body... When Elphilia comes so close to him, Allen can't help but notice her sexual allure.

(Did I spank this girl's ass... It still feels like a dream.)

But because that dream was reality, he is now wearing the uniform of a royal bodyguard.

Though that position is only a cover for working at the princess palace.

“Elphilia-sama, enough of that...”

Kurone, who was standing beside her, calls out to her.

The maid and bodyguard, who at first glance appears to be cool-headed, seemingly gets pushed around every day by her mistress. For the past few days, Allen has been in and out of the princess palace under Kurone's guidance, and while she is usually quiet with him, she talks surprisingly well in front of Elphilia.

"Mmmm, come on, you can let me look until I'm satisfied."

Elphilia puffs out her cheeks like a child. Seeing her like that, Krone's cheeks suddenly turned red.

"B, but, I have to explain about the job as well....."

The pure cuteness of Elphilia seems to captivate even the same sex. In Kurone's case, it must be even harder, because of her strong loyalty as a maid and bodyguard. Allen is quick to sympathize, it must be difficult being put in such heart throbbing situations every day.

"Well, the job is unavoidable. There's no point in trying to explain it."

Elphilia spreads her arms wide open.

"What's unavoidable?"

Allen couldn't help but ask.

"Didn't you mention that you have already captured an assassin who was sent to eliminate Elphilia-sama?"

"Yes, we have. There is an old dungeon in the basement of the princess palace where we have them locked up for the time being. I didn't think that room would be used in my generation. If I didn't need it, I would have liked to have kept it sealed up....."

Elphilia's distaste toward conflict is painfully apparent.

Even more so, Allen wants to finish the interrogation as soon as possible...

“My apologies, Allen-sama”

...Kurone bowed apologetically...

“I wounded the assassin when I was capturing them. Normally, the injury should have healed completely by now, but it seems they have a constitution that is slow to heal..... I think you will have to wait a few more days.”

“No, that’s not something you need to apologize for Kurone-san.”

...Allen is convinced when he hears the situation...

“I learned the hard way during my time with the Royal Order how difficult it is to capture an opponent unscathed. Since you protected Elphilia-sama by capturing the assassin, I think you have fulfilled your duty well.”

“...A-Allen-sama”

When Kurone raises her head, she has a smile on her face.

Allen has a feeling that they will get along well as colleagues. He is self-conscious of how straight-laced a person he is. Thus he usually gets along well with serious people like Kurone.

“So please, leave the rest of the work to me.”

“Thank you, Allen-sama.”

“Fufuu... that’s the interrogator that I chose.”

...Elphilia nods with satisfaction, then says...

“Be tough on yourself and kind to others..... But, do you mind being strict with me?”

Suddenly her bad habit comes out.

“Ha, haa... I’ll take good care of you.”

Allen is still confused by Elphilia's desire to be scolded. As Allen had been strictly disciplined since he was a child and then had been trained hard by the Royal Knights, it was unthinkable that someone young wouldn't be reprimanded by adults. Elphilia must have grown up in a very unique environment. He was glad that Elphilia, who had been too much of a tomboy, had changed after he had scolded her.

However, he feels responsible for encouraging her bad habit. There must be no one else who can firmly discipline her now.

(Is this the right thing for me to do after all?)

He never thought that he would be more troubled by his relationship with his employer than by the nature of his work...

"Well, besides that,"

...Elphilia continued to address Allen, who was perplexed...

"Why did you refuse to stay in my room?"

"There's no way I can do that!"

Elphilia's beauty and sexuality were too much for Allen, even when he was concentrating on his work.

When he was appointed as a high-ranking interrogator, he was asked to live with her, and since then Allen has been staying in a room in the princess palace. The room used to be a storage closet in a corner of the palace, away from Elphilia's room as well as the maids' rooms.

The fact that a man would be living in a princess palace, inside the princess section, which only women are allowed to enter, is a big problem in itself. Rumors are already circulating in the town about the existence of "the male bodyguard living in the princess palace, Allen Brackish".

"If something should happen, it would hurt Elphilia-sama's reputation. Not only could you lose the right to succeed to the throne, you could even be disowned from the royal family."

“Ara, what would I be doing that could get me disowned?”

Elphilia smiles with a giggle.

Although it should be an innocent smile, it stirs up an unexpected scene in Allen’s imagination. He recalls the sight of Elphilia under the moonlight a few days ago. At that time, he was so impressed by the beauty of her body, which was as perfect as a goddess’s, that the more he thinks back on it, the more it stirs his desire for her.

Elphilia licks her lips.

“Can you elaborate on what you’re hoping to happen?”

“W-well, I’m not at liberty to say!”

After answering, Allen realized he had misspoken.

“Ah, no, I didn’t mean I wanted anything suspicious to happen.....”

“Fufuu, that’s okay. I’m rather relieved.”

Elphilia smiles gently and plays with her silver hair.

“It means you are a little attracted to me. If your only interest in me was getting to interrogate me... I would lose my confidence as your partner. But from the look of you, I’d say my fears were unfounded.”

“I’m glad you feel confident.”

No, is that what she wanted? Did Allen just reveal his unconcealed, male desires?

“.....For the time being, I’m not going to tie myself down.”

Elphilia finally withdraws from Allen.

“Until you are ready to interrogate the assassin, you can concentrate on getting used to life at the princess palace. I have instructed the maids who

work here not to barge into your room, so you don't have to worry about your privacy. Though, if you come to my room at night, it will be a lot more fun..... you can count on it."

"Thank you for your thoughtfulness."

I have to get used to life here from now on, Allen decides to himself. There is no doubt that he will face different hardships than he did in the Royal Order of Knights.

"Now, you are dismissed for the rest of the day."

Elphilia sits in a chair at the tea table.

"Is that alright with you?"

Allen was relieved and at the same time somewhat disappointed.

Because it was her, he was wondering if she would tell me to stay with her for a while. It's okay if you're scolded not to knead it, and it's okay if you're detained. But as long as he cannot do his work as a high-ranking interrogator, it would be natural for him to stay close to his mistress as a bodyguard.

"I have a meeting at the royal palace. I'll be occupied until late at night."

"Will Elphilia-sama be attending as part of her duties as a princess?"

"It's something I've been assisting my father with for the past year."

"Leave the escort duty to me, Allen-dono."

Krone puts her hand over her bust, which is pushing up her maid uniform significantly. Her firm expression looks very reliable.

(It's best to leave it to her, a real bodyguard, rather than to me, a fake one. I only need to be called upon when she needs a high-level interrogator. It's a mistake to think that I can stay by her side when I'm not on duty.)

“Kurone-san, please take care of Elphilia-sama.”

Allen is convinced and decides to stay behind. As he leaves the room, he thinks he sees Elphilia’s forlorn face, but was that judgment just for his own convenience?

After leaving Elphilia’s room, Allen decides to look around the princess palace. It is a huge, five-story building. He has to learn the structure of the building first or he might get lost and embarrass himself when he tries to go back to his room.

As he walks down the corridor, he meets many servants. Most of the servants are people who have lost their relatives, and it seemed that Elphilia herself had gone out and recruited them.

(Perhaps some of the women I saved when I was in the Royal Order may be working here..... I was fighting to save their lives, but did Elphilia-sama think beyond that?)

As Allen stood by himself contemplating Elphilia’s magnificence...

“Hey, stop it!”

...he heard a girl’s angry voice coming from a corridor around the corner. This was followed by the sound of several girls making a commotion.

In an instant, Allen’s body moved of its own accord. As a result of his years of fighting in the Royal Order, when he heard a woman scream, his body reacted before his mind could think.

“Tell me why you are fighting!”

(.....Eh, fighting?)

Allen stops just as he runs around the corner of the hallway. Peering around the corner, he sees three girls standing in the middle of the hallway. All three are in their early teens. Two are maids, one red-haired and another black-haired. What catches Allen’s eye however is the elf girl standing between the maids.

He recognizes the girl is an elf because of her distinctive pointed ears. The long, clear golden hair, the glowing golden eyes, and the pure white skin without a single blemish are all characteristics of an elf, if he looks closely.

She is even shorter than the petite Elphilia. She was dressed in a school uniform of blouse and pleated skirt, with the emblem of the Royal Academy of Magic embroidered on the blouse.

Despite her young face, she has an intelligent and mature air in the way she is mediating the fight. Her thick eyebrows were sharp and impressive, and she appeared to have a strong will.

“.....I see, you made fun of this girl for being from the East. That’s wrong. I’m sure Elphilia-onee-sama would be very sad if she knew. Everyone living in the princess palace is a sister and family..... isn’t that what you promised onee-sama?”

The elf girl said in a calm voice to the maids who had been fighting. After hearing her words, the maids became honestly sorry and make up.

(This girl is amazing.....)

The whole sequence was so vivid that Allen is left completely mesmerized. After the maids leave, he decides to step out and talk to the girl.

“Umm, excuse me.”

“Hyaiiii?”

Because of his poor timing, he speak up just as she is about to walk away. The elf girl jumps in surprise. When she turns around, her round eyes are fluttering.

“A m-man!? What are you doing in the princess palace?”

“I’m sorry to startle you. My name is Allen Brackish. I’m a bodyguard for Princess Elphilia, and from today I’ll be living in the princess palace.”

“Ah, ahh! You are! I’ve heard about you!”

The elf girl looks pleased to be able to remember. Then she abruptly runs off and starts grooming herself using a window pane as a mirror. She brushes her hair with a comb, fixes the ribbon on her blouse, and then scurries back over. Her appearance is indeed well-groomed, but her face has become flushed.

“M-my name is Rebecca White. I am fourteen years old! I’ve been allowed to live in the princess palace by the courtesy of Elphilia-onee-sama. I have heard about you from onee-sama, Allen-sama. I can’t believe you were recruited out of the royal knights to be a palace bodyguard..... It’s so wonderful!”

She says all of this in one breath. Her behavior is as if she was meeting the hero of her dreams, and the innocent reaction was very endearing to Allen. The way she broke up the fight was mature, but in reality, she is probably just a young girl who was charmed by the princess’s bodyguard. Of course, Allen does not feel bad about being looked at so favorably.

“I was impressed, too. The way you found out the reason for the fight and had them make up was really remarkable. It is not easy for someone as young as you to do that. I wanted to tell you that, so that’s why I call out to you.”

“Oh, no, that was..... eheheh.”

The impression of an intelligent and mature person has completely disappeared. The elf girl, Rebecca, had a loose smile on her face. If she was this happy, Allen thought, it was worth the effort to talk to her.

“It’s an honor to meet you, Rebecca-san.”

“O-oh, you don’t have to call me ‘san’! You don’t even have to use honorifics! I’m not a guest, I just live here by the kindness of Elphilia-onee-sama, and I’m a lot younger than you, Allen-sama!”

“Is that so?”

Allen thinks for a moment.

Perhaps it would be more uncomfortable for the 14-year-old Rebecca to be addressed by an older man in a formal way. He does not want to keep his distance from the people who live in the princess palace, so perhaps it would be wise to take her suggestion.

“Then I’ll call you Rebecca from now on.”

“Y-yes! I’m looking forward to working with you from now on, Allen-sama!”

Apparently, the story of a bodyguard to the princess drawn from the Royal Order of Knights is more appealing than Allen himself realized. He would be grateful if he were to be received favorably, instead of being shunned for it.

“I’m surprised though, the way you protected a child from the east.”

Ten percent of the people living in the Kingdom of Virginia are non-human.

Among them, elves are especially beautiful and known for their superior magical powers. However, they are so high-minded that they often look down on other races and people from the countryside.

On the other hand, those from the eastern part of the country are treated as hicks. They are farthest from the western part of the continent, where the kingdom’s capital is located, and have their own culture, so they are often prejudiced against.

There were elves in the Royal Order of Knights, but Allen’s impression was that they were difficult to get along with. Rebecca, however, did not exhibit the pride that was common among them.

“Yes! That’s right!”

Rebecca clenches her teeth, as if to say, “How dare they?”

“I don’t think you can call the eastern part of the country provincial! It may be rural compared to here, but it’s a very nice place! The food is delicious, there are hot springs, and festivals in the summer…… Ah…”

She seems to come to her senses when she had said that much. Rebecca starts waving her hands in front of her face.

“Umm, well, I am..... I’m what you might call an Eastern maniac.....”

“It’s good, isn’t it? Being able to talk about what you like.”

Children her age, strangely enough, can be extremely shy when talking about what they like. Allen also has memories of being sheepish for no good reason. Just like him, Rebecca was acting embarrassed and yet smiling.

(Well, then again, it’s unusual to be an Eastern maniac in your early teens.....)

Maybe Rebecca grew up with humans instead of elves? Or maybe she had been treated kindly by a human from the east?

This isn’t a good thing to pry into, Allen thought.

“Oh, yes! I’m also in charge of the warding magic in the princess palace!”

Rebecca changes the subject.

“I even maintain the wards around around Elphilia-onee-sama’s room, you know?”

“Oh, that’s impressive!”

Even Allen, who is not familiar with magic, can see how technically difficult it was.

According to wizards, the more simple and natural the magic, the easier it is to master. Simple magic can create fire or lightning, or enhance the human body’s strength or healing abilities.

On the other hand, magic that constantly protects a certain area with invisible magical power..... In other words, warding magic is not

something that can be easily learned just because one has strong magical power.

The fact that Rebecca is able to use warding magic indicates that she is a person of extraordinary talent.

And how much of an honor it is to be allowed to guard Elphilia's own room..... As a high-ranking interrogator and bodyguard, Allen knows this all too well.

Rebecca speaks with great pride.

“As long as my warding magic is in place, no one can peek into onee-sama's room or eavesdrop! I am the only one who can modify the warding magic. It is thanks to my skill in warding magic that I was invited to the princess palace.”

“Hmm...”

Allen recalls being summoned to Elphilia's room a few days ago.

Her room had a balcony, which was very breezy, but I was concerned that it might be too vulnerable. But in fact, it was protected by Rebecca's warding magic, so that even if Allen smacked Elphilia's bottom and made her cry, the outside world would never hear.

“Thank you, Rebecca.”

“Y-yes!? Why am I being thanked!?”

“The reason Elphilia-sama is able to behave freely is because of your warding magic protecting her room. As someone who cherishes her, I wanted to express my gratitude to you for your work. Thank you so much, Rebecca.”

“I-I'm happy to hear you say that.....”

Rebecca is rubbing her inner thighs together. Her face is bright red and she cannot keep herself from fidgeting.

(I can never tell her exactly how free Elphilia's become.....)

“Uh, umm... I've never had a guy compliment me this much before, and, uh, I'm about to run out of steam, so can I go back to my room?”

“Aah, I'm sorry for keeping you.”

“Oh, no! You can stop me again whenever you like, Allen-sama!”

Rebecca bowed and ran off at once.

She runs as fast as she can, so fast that Allen is afraid she might bump into someone in the hallway. Still, Rebecca surprised him. He expected the royal palace would have at least one court wizard, but he had no idea that it was a 14-year-old girl, not to mention an elf..... He hopes to get to know her even better in the future as a friend and fellow protector of Elphilia.

(Well then, back to exploring the princess palace.)

Allen is about to start walking again. From far away, he hears the noisy voices of the maids.

For a moment his body almost reacts, but he resists his instinct, remembering the fight that had just occurred.

Either the maids are fighting with each other, a rat had run underfoot, or they are just chatting nervously..... he doesn't think he could live in a princess palace full of women if he was in a panic over a disturbance of this magnitude.

Where should he look around this time? As Allen was walking around thinking,

“Hmm?”

A maid walks down the hallway with light steps. She is a girl of about seventeen years wearing a large maid's cap, with strikingly bright emerald eyes.

Then, just as they are about to pass each other,

“Are you the assassin that was caught?”

Allen suddenly grabs the maid’s arm.

“Ehh!? Nyaa... Fu~nyah!?”

The eyes of the maid, or the female assassin, dart back and forth.

Although she seems to think she has disguised herself well, it is impossible to fool Allen’s second ability, “The Power to See Through Lies”.

Even without knowing the description of the captured assassin, the disguised maid seemed unnatural enough to convince Allen that she was the assassin.

“H-How did you find out!?”

“It was your walk.”

“M-my walk?”

“The way you walk is different than the rest of the maids. You don’t let your footsteps echo so that you can start running while out of sight... What kind of maid thinks about walking that way?”

“Grnnnn.....”

The female assassin grits her teeth in frustration. But then she grins and smiles wryly.

“Well, I guess it can’t be helped if I’ve been found out.”

A moment later, the female assassin leaps high into the air. She pulls her arm out of his grasp, and in an instant she is out of her maid’s uniform. She spins around in mid-air and the maid’s cap she is wearing comes off. Revealed underneath are cat ears, the sign of a cat-type beastman. A lithe tail is also revealed that had been hidden below the maid’s uniform.

The female cat beastman assassin stuck out her tongue to provoke him.

“So long, Reaper-san~♪”

“Allen-sama, there’s an assassin—”

The timing was perfect. Just as the female assassin is about to land, Kurone enters the hallway. Allen shouts to her,

“Kurone-san, don’t let her get away!”

“U-Understood!”

The female assassin finishes her somersault and lands in the middle of the hallway. Kurone, with her best timing, grapples her from behind.

“Nnyah!? W-What are you doing, you violent maid?”

“This is because you are violent yourself! Give up and be quiet!”

But the female assassin did not give up easily, and in the end, after pinning her to the floor, Kurone had to tie both her arms behind her back.

“Ow, ow, ow! The rope’s biting into me!”

“If I don’t make it this tight, you’ll run away again!”

“Fu~un, I’ll run away again later anyway.”

“I won’t let you escape again! This time you’ll be interrogated properly!”

Kurone is breathing heavily after the fight. Allen pats her on the shoulder.

“You did a good job, Kurone-san. This time you managed to catch her unscathed.”

“Allen-sama!?”

Kurone comes to herself with a start and her face immediately begins to flush.

“S-so sorry. I’m sorry I showed you something unsightly! And the fact that I was able to catch her unharmed is mostly thanks to Allen-sama……”

“With my leg injury, it would be impossible for me to catch a nimble assassin like her. It was only because Kurone-san rushed to the scene.”

“Well, then, that…… Thank you, Allen-sama.”

Kurone is so pleased that her eyes are moist. He can tell that she must be very happy to be able to redeem her mistake. Then, with a clear smile, she says”,

“From now on, please call me ‘Kurone’. There’s no need to be so formal with me.”

“If you insist, I will call you ‘Kurone’.”

Does this mean the distance between them as colleagues has shortened?

“Thank you once again, Allen-sama.”

“So I’m still ‘Allen-sama’……”

“Because Allen-sama is someone who Elphilia-sama has invited personally!”

Have they really grown closer, or not? When Allen puzzles over this,

“Hey! Don’t just stand there flirting, take me somewhere or something!”

The tied up female assassin, disgusted, complains to them.

The interrogation is to begin after the sun had set and Elphilia had finished her meeting at the royal palace.

The interrogation room is located in the basement at the end of a hidden staircase. After passing through the iron gate, they find themselves in a large room with walls made of bare stone. There are no windows, wallpaper, or carpets, so the room felt bleak in spite of its large size. The space is equipped with a variety of facilities. The lighting is sufficiently bright due to the use of magic ore, and the room is equipped with a bed for treating the interrogation subject and even running water if it became necessary.

The cupboards lining the walls are stocked with all manner of grisly interrogation tools and mysterious concoctions collected from all corners of the world. Allen had no intention of using any of them, but they might be useful as props to scare the interrogation subjects.

“I didn’t expect you to be my assistant, Elphilia-sama.”

“Using ‘sama’ won’t be necessary here. Please just refer to me as your assistant.”

Standing next to Allen is his employer, Elphilia.

Today, instead of a pure white dress, she is wearing a sheer babydoll. Through the transparent fabric, he can see through to her soft skin and the lace panties that hug her buttocks. Although she stands out because she is too sexy, she must have chosen to wear something that is easy to move around in and that she doesn’t mind getting dirty.

“My identity doesn’t matter to the interrogation subject,”

Elphilia adds.

The subject of this interrogation, a catgirl assassin, has been standing in the center of the interrogation room for some time now. Her hands are shackled above her head by chains hanging from the ceiling.

“This girl’s name is Marie. She’s a 17-year-old cat-type beastman, and she belongs to the thieves guild. That’s all we were able to get from her in the preliminary interrogation.”

“What were you going to do to Elphilia..... Were you trying to discredit Elphilia?”

“She tried to steal the royal seal given to me by my father.”

If Elphilia lost the gift from the king, her reputation as a princess would be damaged. She would not lose her right to the throne just because of that, but it would give her rival half-sisters an excuse to exploit her.

Allen wants to get the assassin to spill who her client is from her own mouth. He doesn't think it will be that easy to find out who the client is, but for now, he wants even the tiniest clue.

Allen carefully observes Marie's body. She is wearing only an old tank top and panties. She has a slender figure, reminiscent of a very lithe cat. Her thighs are surprisingly firm, which explains why she was able to make that huge jump.

“Significant injuries..... I don't see any. I knew it was all an act to avoid interrogation.”

“D-Don't stare at me, you perverted knight!”

Marie shakes her ass and wags her fur-covered tail.

Her tail hit Allen's body, but it only tickled him a little.

“Don't worry. I'm a professional.”

“A professional?”

“I don't get excited just because it's a woman I'm interrogating. I assure you that I am interrogating you for information, not for my own gratification.”

“That's right..... you won't get excited from my body.....”

Marie makes a complicated face for some reason. Her cat ears and tail are drooping softly.

W-Well, I never expected to run into ‘The Grim Reaper’s Eyes’ here!”

“You know my nickname?”

“It’s famous among thieves. People say it’s impossible to trick you.”

Marie bares her teeth at him.

“But I’m not going to give in to your torture! Cat burglars have their pride! Cut off my ears or my tail, I don’t care. I’m used to pain! Now, get on with it!”

Her words are thoroughly aggressive. Not only the fur on her cat ears and tail, but even her shaggy brown hair, which looks as if it had never been cared for, was standing on end. Her whole body is already drenched in sweat, and her tank top and panties are stained with sweat.

This girl is strong. She will not confess even if her ears and tail are cut off. In Allen’s experience, people will only grow more stubborn if they are simply tortured. Allen believes that there must be a certain amount of affection when interrogating a person.

(Even so, what disturbing words to come out of such a young girl’s mouth.)

Allen knows about the existence of the thieves’ guild. It is a criminal organization with connections throughout the kingdom, and most of its members are poor citizens. It is easy to imagine how difficult and unreasonable it must have been for her to be a beastman, which is an even smaller minority among them.

Marie’s weaknesses, however, were known to Allen when he brought her to the interrogation room. The cat ears and tail, he can sense the presence of a weakness from those areas. They are important sensors for a beastman. They are the key to their heightened hearing, far superior to that of humans, and to their sense of balance, which is undoubtedly acute.

The question, however, is how to attack them. Unlike the butt, which is protected by plenty of fat, he cannot safely slap her ears and tail.

“.....Hmm?”

At that moment, he notices that Marie’s eyes are on something he didn’t expect. She stares at Elphilia with a sideways glance.

“Oh, what’s wrong?”

Elphilia notices her gaze and tilts her head. Her well-shaped breasts swayed beneath the see-through babydoll.

“It seems like you’ve been staring at me.....”

“N-no, I wasn’t!”

Marie blushes in embarrassment. She turns her head away from Elphilia, but her eyes are fixed on her.

“I was looking at the underwear the princess was wearing.”

“Underwear?”

“You’re wearing such expensive underwear that looks cute!”

(Expensive and cute?)

For Allen, as a man, this was a blind spot. He could describe Elphilia’s underwear as “beautiful” and “seductive” but he couldn’t think of them as “cute” in the way he would describe a small animal or a flower. Perhaps that is a sensibility unique to women.

“And the princess said, ‘Please use me as an assistant,’ which seemed really sweet to me! She’s wearing such pretty lingerie, and her make up is perfect, while I’m being treated like a disgusting thing!”

Marie’s eyes are downcast in frustration.

“I know, because I was born in a slum, and I haven’t had a good life. Even now, I’m hanging here in my sweaty, tattered underwear. Of course, I’ve never worn makeup or even a ribbon.”

“I see.....”

Elphilia looks heartbroken. What she does then...

“Indeed, I was ill prepared”

...without a single sign of hesitation, she takes off the see-through babydoll. Elphilia's petite frame reveals breasts that are both larger and more dignified than one would expect.

If her ass is a full moon, her breasts are plump, creamy fruits. The round contours are soft, yet the pink tips point upward and assert themselves, as if provoking onlookers to suckle them. And Elphilia's antics do not stop there. She puts her hands over her lace panties and slips them off as well.

Marie is so surprised that she screams out.

“Princess, what are you doing!?”

“I just want to be a nobody, just like you suggested.”

Elphilia is not shy about exposing her nude form, and in fact she shows it off. Her majestic appearance is similar to a goddess depicted in a religious painting.

Her whole body is moist with sweat, mixed with the sweet smell of perfume. She is so slender that she seems like she could easily be broken, but her breasts and hips are generous... and they look very soft. Even though she is only standing in the room she has an undeniable eroticism.

“Aahh, put your underwear on now! It's too much for me to see!”

“That's very kind of you to say.”

Elphilia picks up her underwear and puts it back on. When Marie sees this, she exhales a big sigh.

(...Okay, I see it)

Allen, who had remained silent up to this point, says,

“Thank you, Elphilia.”

He finally arrived at the answer.

“Kya... That was so sudden, what happened?”

Elphilia’s spine shivered as she was approached. Her body is bouncing with excitement, and her ample breasts and ass rise and fall with it.

“Thanks to Elphilia, I’ve had a breakthrough.”

“Th-thanks to me? Maybe it’s because I got naked?”

That probably isn’t the case... but there was no need to disappoint her, so Allen decides to keep his mouth shut.

“Also, I have a favor to ask of Elphilia.”

“Yeh-Yes♥ I’ll listen to anything you say♥”

After seeing Marie’s reaction, he could imagine that if Elphilia were a dog-type beastman, she’d probably be wagging her tail all over the place.

Allen bent forward and gently whispers in her ear as she stands up on her toes.

“Okay. I’ll get it right away!”

As soon as he gives her the direction, Elphilia heads out of the interrogation room.

(No way, I didn’t expect to ever send a princess of the country on an errand... And she’s basically naked.)

If an outsider found out, it’s not like he will get away unscathed. But the risk would be the same for Elphilia. Being a high-level interrogator is a

clandestine job, and if it were to come to light, she would be held accountable.

“I’ve brought it!”

Elphilia returns to the interrogation room with a small box. Allen checks the contents and finally addresses Marie.

“We’re going to start the interrogation now”

“Kuu...”

Marie clenches her back teeth.

Allen pulls out a small glass bottle from the box.

“Marie, let me tell you something at the outset. The interrogation you are about to undergo will not be something you can grit your teeth to endure.”

“Wha-what do you mean?”

In the glass bottle is a medicine prepared by Elphilia.

“What are you going to d-do with that?”

This is... to do this!”

Then, he grabs Marie’s cat ears, which were still limp.

“Nyaaah♥”

Instantly, Marie’s back arches and her tail, which had been hiding between her hips, leaps out. Then, experiencing a sudden feeling of weakness, her whole body, including her tail, slumps.

“Elphilia, support her.”

“Y-yes!”

Elphilia moves behind Marie in a hurry. Since Marie's arms are suspended by chains, she could hurt herself if she can't support her body. When Elphilia grabs her body, Marie exhales a hot, breathy, "Nyaaa♥".

"My ears, don't touch me there..... That's not fair!"

"Going after your weak point is natural in an interrogation. Are you ready to give up the information?"

"Nn-No, I'm not..... Even I have my pride..... I'm not going to give in..... Nyaa♥"

Allen mercilessly rubs Marie's feline ears. Her ears are coated in the thick solution that makes them slimy and comfortable to touch. Allen is reminded of when he washed the big dog his family used to have at home.

(If you don't do it carefully, you'll be surprised how much you leave unwashed...)

Allen adds some more of the medicine to his hands and applies it not only to the outside of Marie's ears, which are fully covered in fur, but also to the inside of her ears, which has very little fur protecting it.

"Ah♥ ah♥ don't put your finger in there♥"

"Is the inside more vulnerable than the outside?"

"I-I don't know..... I've never had a human touch me like this before..... Ahh♥"

Marie is already buckling under the assault on her weak spot, but she is not even able to sit down and rest. The tickling sensation is not something relieve by clenching her teeth and enduring it.

Her whole body is sweating as if she were in a sauna, and the shabby tank top and panties Marie is wearing are completely soaked. As a result, the fabric is stuck tightly to her small but perky breasts and hips.

"You make quite a pretty voice."

Elphilia comments plainly while supporting her body from behind. Marie rebuffs her with a loud voice.

“I’m-I’m not cute!”

“Is that so?”

“Even in the thieves guild, all they say is that I’m a stray cat that’s only good at stealing.....”

“You seem like a serious person, don’t you think you’d make a good maid?”

“Your words aren’t enough to confuse me..... Nyah♥”

Marie springs up on her tiptoes as if lightning had just coursed through her body. Her metallic cat eyes are moist with tears and drool is dripping from her half-open mouth. Allen quickly removes his hand from Marie’s cat ears.

{TL: The description of Marie’s eyes is literally “gold-colored” or “metal-colored”. Given Marie’s red eyes in the only colored image with her eyes open in volume 1 and 2, I used “metallic” but this could be an inconsistency, intended as copper-colored, or her eyes change color when horny.}

“F-finally a break?”

“What a foolish thing to say. This is just the beginning.”

Then he gives the small vial three times, emptying more of the medicine into his hand.

“Elphilia, you take care of her ears.”

“Yes. Yes sir!”

Allen smears Elphilia’s hands with the fluid. Then he douses his own right hand with a generous amount of it, and uses his free left hand to hold Marie’s body firmly.

“N-no way.....”

Marie’s face scrunches up as she realizes what is about to happen. At the same time Elphilia is rubbing her cat ears, Allen squeezes Marie’s supple tail hard with his medicine-covered right hand.

“Yaah, aah...nyaa♥ Ahaaahhnn♥♥”

Her tail, soaked with plenty of the mixture, makes a sticky squishing sound with each squeeze. Marie reacts strongly when he moves his hand against the grain of her fur and toward the base of her tail. Each time he does so, she leaks out a sweet, barely articulate sound. She may think she is managing to endure the torture, but her metallic eyes are clearly tinted with the color of pleasure.

“This is... If you...keep going♥...then I’ll... You’ll make me go crazy♥”

“If you don’t like that, you’ll just have to confess.”

“Nya♥ Nya♥ ...but ahh♥”

Marie’s heart is weakening to the two-pronged attack on her ears and tail. But she still won’t confess because of the pride she has accumulated in her career as a thief.

Allen’s left arm is now carrying most of Marie’s weight. She can hardly stand on her own. It would be easy for him to push her too far and knock her unconscious...

“Elphilia, I’m going to need your help again.”

“Yes, I’ll take care of it!”

Allen wipes his hands clean of the solution, leaving Marie’s body in Elphilia’s hands. Then he picks up the small box he asked for again.

(This will be the finishing touch.)

“Nya, what are you going to do!?”

Marie shakes her body with the last of her strength. But there is no way she can escape with Elphilia hugging her from the side, and the chains restraining her hands only making a rattling noise.

Allen walks behind Marie.

Marie twists around and tries to look at Allen, but there was a limit to what she could do.

“No, no way, don’t cut off my tail……. Don’t! Stop it!”

“Don’t pass out. This is the vital part.”

Allen’s interrogation is coming to a head. The final touch is “tying ribbons around Marie’s tail”. First, he ties a red ribbon into a butterfly knot and tightens it.

“Nnya nyahh♥”

The moment the red ribbon is tied, Marie’s slender body trembles. Large drops of sweat splash onto the bare stone floor. Her two cat ears, wet with the medicine, twitch in spasms.

“Nya, what did you do!? What happened to my tail!?”

Marie’s body can’t help but shake uncontrollably. Perhaps because of the strange sensation on her tail, the lower half of her body is twitching like it’s part of a different creature. The way her buttocks repeatedly tenses and relaxes seems like she is greedily savoring the pleasure rising from her tail.

“Nyah♥ From my tail…♥ Nnyah♥ Something is coming…♥”

Unlike when Allen massaged it with his hand, the ribbon will continue to give her tail sweet pleasure as long as it is tied. The stimulus with no strength produced the ultimate irritating effect.

Allen ties more ribbons on Marie’s tail one after another.

“Oh no, stop♥ I’m going to go crazy……. Nnnyaan♥”

Marie continues to wag her butt uncontrollably and greedily. She must have exhausted a lot of energy by now. Her whole body is warm as if she had just finished taking a bath. The aroma of the herbal medicine solution and fresh sweat fills the interrogation room.

(...It's about time.)

Allen stopped his ribbon torture.

“Marie, look at yourself.”

“Nya-nyaa?”

A large mirror hangs on the wall of the interrogation room. Reflected there are red, yellow, pink, light blue, orange... Marie's tail was decorated with a variety of colorful ribbons.

“M-m-My tail looks so pretty with ribbons.....”

From her reaction, Allen is convinced that his suspicion was spot on. Once he saw how she envied Elphilia's cute underwear and listened to her talk about her misfortune of never dressing up or wearing makeup, he knew that Marie was longing for such luxuries. Now all he needs to do is get rid of the strong feelings that are holding her back.

“Marie, is your pride really that important?”

“Nya, what are you talking about?”

“I know you've had a hard life. You have lived your life to the fullest, and it is understandable that you would have pride in yourself. But what if you could dress up, put on makeup, and live a more girly life?”

“That... that would be nice.....”

“Then the answer is simple. Confess everything and walk away from the thieves' guild. Live here with Elphilia as a maid. You'll be safe in the princess palace..... and I will protect you. Don't you want to live a happy, girlish life?”

“Ah, ah, ah...”

The unreasonable hardships she has been forced to endure, and the twisted pride that has been born of it... The things that have sustained Marie’s life crumble to the ground. Tears fall from her eyes.

“I’ll tell you..... I’ll tell you everything.....”

Marie wasn’t lying. Allen’s “Power to See Through Lies” made it clear to him that she was telling the truth.

“You did a great job, Marie.”

Allen immediately removes the shackles from Marie’s hands.

He picks up her limp body and carries her straight to the treatment bed. Marie’s body is as light as a feather, thanks to her slender frame.

“Thank you, I appreciate your decision.”

“Nya... I’m... so tired...”

As Marie lays on the bed, she lovingly hugs her tail, which was still decorated with many ribbons. She is so tired that as soon as her tension released, she feels overcome with exhaustion. Her eyes are vacant, as if she is about to fall asleep. It may be a convenient interpretation, but to Allen, her face looks happy, as if a burden had fallen from her shoulders.

“I, too, will be fashionable like the princess.....”

Marie closes her eyes and begins to sleep quietly.

Elphilia uses a soft towel to wipe her drenched body and changes her sweat-soaked underwear. She looks even more peaceful as she lay with the blankets draped over her body.

“You did a good job, Allen.”

“Thank you. I am relieved that my first job is over.”

Allen finally realizes that he was also feeling quite hot.

“I don’t have the ability to spot a lie, but I can tell when I see this child sleeping. She will always tell you the truth. You really did a perfect job without hurting her heart or her body. Allen, what would you like for your reward?”

Elphilia gives him a seductive look.

Allen takes a long look at the lacy underwear Elphilia is wearing. Her underwear is soaked with sweat to the point it is transparent because she had been forced to run to retrieve the box and had to keep supporting Marie’s flailing body. The color of her wet skin was completely visible through the thin fabric, and because it was so faintly concealed, it stirred his imagination more than when she was naked.

“A reward for what? I only did my job...”

“It’s an additional reward for doing the job perfectly. Think about what you want, okay?”

“Hah, I understand...”

Let’s make it as safe as possible. Riding on her teasing can be irreparable.

“Isn’t it so good to have your ears massaged? I was so worried. I’m sure it feels good, I’m sure.”

Elphilia brushes back her silver hair, exposing her normally hidden ears and the nape of the neck. Become. The slender nape of the neck and the trailing hair that bounces lightly gives Allen a hint of her sex appeal.

“Hey, Allen. If you don’t mind, I’d like you to——”

“Now that the interrogation is over, let’s get some rest.”

“Boo...”

Thus the first interrogation finished successfully. No harm was done to the suspects mind or body, and she was convinced to give up information. Allen's confidence grew that he wouldn't bring shame to his title of high-level interrogator.

X

Later, after Marie recovered her strength, she was interviewed.

Ultimately, she just jumped at a "dangerous but well-paid job" that came to the thieves' guild, and she didn't ask who the client was..... In other words, she had no idea who the mastermind is or that she was being used in the succession battle.

The thieves' guild had since been investigated, but no one has been able to find the mastermind, let alone the person who brokered the job, so for now, Allen can only hope that a second assassin will not be sent in.

Then, one afternoon, Allen and Marie were summoned to Elphilia's room.

"Fufuun, you look lovely♥ I like it♥"

As promised, Marie is to work as a maid in the palace.

She is given a maid uniform directly by Elphilia and tries it on immediately.

In Allen's opinion, it suits Marie well.

"It's frilly, silky, comfortable, beautiful, and smells great!"

Marie jumps up and down with joy. At the tip of her tail is a red ribbon. She seems to have grown fond of it and has been dressing up with the ribbon every day since then.

(Giving a new life to the interrogation subject... I never thought of that before.)

"The most important thing is that you like it."

Elphilia, sitting at the tea table, nods her head in satisfaction. She is elegantly savoring the tea that Kurone had made for her.

“You’ll be working in the princess palace for a while for now.”

“Yes! I’ll behave myself!”

Marie answers while still hopping around. Kurone sighs while watching her,

“I’m worried. I can’t believe a girl like her is going to be a maid.....”

“I wouldn’t want a violent maid like you!”

Kurone and Marie are glaring at each other. The two of them will have to work on their relationship from now on.

“Marie, I’m going to educate you properly, so be prepared.”

“You think you have anything to teach me? Don’t underestimate me, I grew up in the city.”

Allen quietly watches them bicker.

(I’ve never had to mediate in a women’s argument before..... I’m a little worried about the future.)

As he is thinking about that...

“Allen-samaa♥ That violent maid is glaring at me♥”

...Marie purrs while clinging onto Allen.

The smell of soap wafts from her freshly washed maid uniform. Marie, who had combed her shaggy brown hair and changed into the beautiful uniform, is filled with girlish cuteness. She looks up at Allen with a sad look in her eyes, just like a pet cat that gets lonely and cuddles up to its owner.



“W-wait a minute! Don’t drag me into this!”

“What are you doing? Get away from Allen-sama!”

Even Kurone gets close to Allen. The normally calm, brown maid puffs out her cheeks like a child. Allen had never seen her make this kind of expression since he started living in the princess’s palace.

Marie looks at him with a relaxed face and nuzzles against his arm.

“I owe you for giving me this chance Allen-sama♥ I’ll listen to anything you say♥”

“Ge-get away! I said get away from him, you stray cat maid!”

“Kyaa! You violent maid!”

“V-violent? I think you need to be punished as soon as possible.....”

He has no choice but to ask Elphilia to intercede for him. Allen looks at her desperately, but she only smiles as she sipped her tea and does not offer any help at all.

(Maybe everyday life will be more difficult than the interrogations?)

Life in the princess palace, where only women are allowed. Allen was finally beginning to realize the difficulties ahead.

Chapter 3 - Borrowing the Elf

Since the interrogation of Marie, life at the princess palace has been peaceful. No new assassins had been sent to the palace, and there had been no word spoken openly about the succession battle. The investigation of the mastermind who hired Marie is also out of Allen's purview as a high-level interrogator. Therefore, Allen has been spending his days leisurely.

Practicing swordsmanship, patrolling the princess palace, reading in the library, and having tea with Elphilia... He is so idle that one might wonder if he is really a bodyguard. Because of rumors about the "male bodyguard Allen Brackish", even though Elphilia has given him permission to go out, he cannot do so casually.

Even so, his life at the princess palace was comfortable. The servants did not approach Allen unnecessarily, keeping their promise to Elphilia, even though the man's presence must have been bothering them.

(Well, how shall I spend today...)

Allen wakes up in his bed in his room. Originally a storage room, his room has none of the glamour seen in most of the princess palace. It is not much different from when he was in the Royal Order, except that the room is more spacious. Still, being away from the servants' living space, he could spend his time here without worrying about the eyes of the women.

(...Hmm? Is it strangely warm under the covers?)

Allen body feels odd and he peeks under the covers.

"Nm, good morning, Allen-sama♥"

...He hears in a feline voice. Underneath the covers is Marie, dressed in a camisole that exposes her belly button. The black camisole was probably provided to her along with her maid's uniform. While mostly loose-fitting, the cloth is pulled taut around the chest. She generously presses her slender, youthful body against Allen's.

"Why are you in my bed?"

"I missed your warm touch so much♥ So I snuck out in the middle of the night♥"

Marie's bushy tail curls around Allen's leg and she uses it to expertly stroke his thighs in an impatient manner.

"Marie, this isn't a good idea."

Allen gets up and pushes Marie's body off of him. Marie gives him a look of disappointment, pulls the covers over her body, and begins sniffing them. Then she smiles to herself with a sloppy expression.

"I think I like the way Allen-sama smells♥ I could smell him all the time♥"

"Nah....."

Allen's face reddens from embarrassment.

(Does the smell of a man make you that happy!?)

They hear a knock at the door to the room, followed by...

"Allen-sama, Marie is in there, isn't she!?"

...Kurone's apparently angry voice.

Allen calls out, hoping she will help him...

"Marie is here! Take her away!"

"I understand. Excuse me then!"

Kurone enters Allen's room. As soon as she sees the room, her cheeks were dyed red.

“Wh-wha-what are you doing—!?”

“What do you mean... I was sleeping with Allen-sama”

The way she put it would definitely lead to a misunderstanding. Allen hastens to add...

“I found her in my bed this morning... She just crawled in by herself!”

“Of course. I knew that. A man like Allen-sama would never bring in such a bad cat like this. This stray must have snuck in on its own!”

“Ah, aaa... it's helpful that you understand.”

Kurone and Marie are not on friendly terms, and whenever they see each other, they always quarrel.

(Well, most of it is because of Marie's habit of skipping work...)

Is it okay as long as they aren't getting into a big fight with each other? Allen still doesn't know how to manage the two.

“You skipped preparing breakfast and then snuck into Allen-sama's bed... I will not tolerate it today! I'm going to lock you in the underground prison instead of the reflection room! I won't let you out until you're sorry!”

Kurone rushes to the side of the bed.

“Fuun~”

Marie has a very relaxed expression on her face in contrast to Kurone who is seriously angry. And then, adopting a mischievous grin, she says...

“Kurone, by any chance, did you want to sleep in the same bed with Allen-sama?”

Allen hears something completely ridiculous.

Kurone's face, already slightly red with anger, suddenly turns such a bright red it looks like she is being boiled.

“W-w-what are you talking about, such an outrageous thing!”

“You say it's outrageous, but you didn't actually deny that you want to sleep in the same bed.”

“Ba-ba-bah!?”

Kurone's eyes are moist with embarrassment and she looks at Allen as if she's begging for his help. Even if she looks at him like that, there is no way for him to help.

(I mean, what does that reaction mean? No way, does that mean Kurone really is jealous... no, I shouldn't think so naively.)

“Fine, fine”

Ignoring the confused Allen, Marie gets up from the bed and rubs herself against Kurone, who was standing by her side. Combined with her sultry, black lingerie, she looks like a little devil trying to corrupt the earnest maid.

“I've been treated kindly by everyone at the palace. As a way of repaying the kindness I've always received, I'll definitely keep it a secret even if Kurone does do some♪~thing♪~here♪~”

“Ah-ah-ah”

She is so cool and serious at work, Allen never thought she would be so easily toyed around with...

As Allen looks on in amazement...

“Uwah!”

Kurone suddenly lands a single chop on Marie's skull. A sound echoes through the room like a piece of wood being chopped.

“Migyaaaaah!”

With a scream that is hard to imagine coming from a girl, Marie falls over on the bed. She had been knocked unconscious by a single, magnificent blow to the brain. Allen is strangely impressed by the bodyguard to Elphilia.

Haah... Haah...”

Kurone catches her breath. Then she lifts the unconscious Marie onto her shoulders.

“I'm sorry to have shown you something unsightly...”

“No, um, please take care of Marie.”

“It's like this every day, so please don't worry about it.”

With a bow, Kurone carries Marie out of the room.

(Is it like this every day.....?)

He wonders what kind of fights are happening in places he doesn't know about.

Allen starts his morning with a frightening experience.

It was the usual afternoon teatime when Allen is summoned by one of Elphilia's maids.

(What kind of stories will I hear from her today?)

Discussions about medicines under development, reconstruction projects in villages attacked by demons or bandits, opinions on the current political system... Of course, there are also some trivial conversations.

When talking about her tea preferences and the latest trends, Elphilia is no longer the princess second in line to the throne, but a normal teenage girl. Her soft smile at these times is cute and different from her usual dignified manner...

(No, no, what am I thinking!)

As Allen is getting flustered all by himself...

“Hm?”

He finds a small figure in front of Elphilia’s room. It is a short elf in a school uniform, Rebecca White. She is standing in front of the door, red-faced and shivering.

“Hi, Rebecca.”

“Hya~in”

Rebecca jumps up in shock even though he had only called out to her. When she looks back at him, Allen could see her face growing more and more flushed. The smooth, white skin, which is typical of elves, now has a hue like a ripe peach. Was she angry, nervous, or embarrassed? In such a state, only her long pointy ears remained white, which seems somehow odd to Allen.

“What are you doing out here? Why don’t you just ask her to let you in?”

“N-no! I’m not here for anything!”

“Is that so?”

It is hard to believe that a girl with a red face in front of the princess’ room really has nothing to do.

(This kind feels like an interrogation, doesn’t it?)

Since he became aware of his ability to detect lies, he has been suspicious of the truth even in everyday conversation.

“Hey, Rebecca.”

Allen gently strokes her head.

“Ah♥”

Rebecca lets out a happy sound. She puts her hand on her small bosom.

“Wh-what is it, Allen-sama?”

Rebecca glances up at Allen and gazes raptly at him. Although she still looks very young, there is a glimpse of feminine sweetness in her eyes, and the way her thick eyebrows are arched upward gives her a melancholy look that makes men want to conquer her.

(If I become more embarrassed than you, I won't be able to take care of you...)

Allen clears his throat.

“I'm Elphilia's bodyguard, but my main duty is to patrol the entire palace.”

“Is that right?”

Rebecca tilts her head. The brief glimpse of sexiness is withdrawn and her childishness comes to the fore. Her expression of intrigue is that of an honors student asking a question to her teacher.

“The princess palace is all women... Since it's a single-sex environment, won't you get distracted?”

“Well, Elphilia-onee-sama's makes sure to keep me on my toes...”

Rebecca gasps and her eyes sparkle. She is probably thinking about the kindness of her beloved onee-sama.

(Come to think of it, there was a guy with those same sparkling eyes...)

Allen suddenly remembers his days as a Royal Knight. He had a junior who was three years younger than him, and he missed them as much as he would a pet dog. Come to think of it, that junior should have moved on from the Royal Order about six months ago to a higher position... Be that as it may, it's Rebecca in front of him now.

"I want to be useful not only to Elphilia-sama, but to all the people living in the princess palace. So, if you have something you don't feel comfortable discussing with Elphilia-sama, please let me know, okay?"

"Y-yes... but..."

Rebecca has a look of clear hesitation. Allen feels a hole open in his heart.

(Is this still not enough for you to trust me? Or is it too much to ask me, a man, for advice...?)

"Sorry, Allen-sama!"

...Rebecca shouts and runs down the stairway.

Allen was unable to convey his feelings, and he felt faint.

(I'll keep quiet about this with Elphilia-sama for the time being...)

He decides to wait and see how things go for a while, and if Rebecca still seems troubled, he'll ask her again. She may have a change of heart with time. Allen decided to return his focus to his original purpose.

"Elphilia-sama, this is Allen!"

I've been waiting for you. Please come in."

He knocks on the door of the room and immediately hears Elphilia's reply.

"Excuse me."

When Allen enters the room, he notices Kurone standing by the tea table. Elphilia would normally be seated in the chair next to her...

“Kurone, where is Elphilia-sama?”

“She is over there.”

Kurone points to the balcony. Is she catching a breeze? Allen peeks over at the balcony.

“Welcome, Allen.”

Elphilia is lying completely nude on the balcony’s chaise lounge. Allen can’t help but be fascinated by her limbs. Elphilia’s entire body has a glossy sheen to it from her sunscreen. Her soft skin, reflecting the sunlight, looks supple and inviting, and she looks sexy enough to tempt men to reach out and touch her. Elphilia shows no sign of embarrassment, even though she was exposing not only the tips of her lovely and prominent breasts, but also her most private places which women would never want to show to a stranger. Rather, she smiles elegantly at Allen with a spirit of superiority that seems like she is taunting him.

“Oh, what’s the matter, Allen? Were you lost admiring my body, by any chance?”

“Hah-Wha– I don’t know what you mean...”

“No matter what I mean. I’m just enjoying some sunbathing and reading.”

Elphilia rises from the chaise. Her voluptuous breasts bounce lightly, flinging droplets of sweat off her skin. Elphilia’s right hand is indeed clutching a book she had been reading. The perverse situation of being in such a primitive state, yet carrying a book, the fruit of wisdom, confuses Allen’s mind even more.

“Since the balcony is also protected by Rebecca’s barrier magic, you don’t have to worry about being peeped at, and when you get naked like this, you feel open and your head is clear. How about Allen, reading while sunbathing together?”

“Eh- I think I’ll pass!”

Is this a normal way for royalty to spend their time? Elphilia's sensibilities are so different that it is difficult for Allen to guess.

She may be free to be naked in her own room, and she may not be ashamed to show her nakedness to someone who is neither royalty nor nobility, but the person on the receiving end of such a display would find the experience distressing.

“Kurone! Bring a towel for Elphilia-sama!”

“Yes, sir!”

Kurone, who had been watching the situation, confirms with Elphilia.

“Elphilia-sama, are you done with your sunbathing?”

“Hmm, I would have liked to stay longer, but... I have a meeting at the palace so I don't have time to relax.”

“Then allow me to wipe you off.”

Kurone brings a towel and wipes the sunscreen off Elphilia's body.

“Kyaa!? Kurone, you're tickling me when you do it that way.”

“Pl-please forgive me! Umm, first of all, please raise your arms...”

“Nnm♥ yo-you're..... You're not doing that on purpose, are you?”

“I-I would never do that! Well, now please turn your butt towards.....”

“I don't know why you're so clumsy with these things. I've only known you for a short time, but that's the only thing I've never figured out..... Ah♥ Ahn♥ That's- Kurone, there is—!”

Allen looked away from them and waited for Elphilia to finish dressing.

Needless to say, it took every ounce of his patience.

“Oh yes, I have something for you.”

Elphilia, wearing a gown, beckons him over.

(Is that the reason you invited me today...?)

Allen hurries over to her and she hands him the book she was reading. It is not that thick, and the binding is somewhat cheap. It seems to be the type of novel that is popular among the general public.

“It’s my favorite novel series. The servants at the palace and Rebecca are all raving about it. If you read it, would you be so kind as to tell me what you think?”

“Then I’ll accept it.”

Allen takes the novel from Elphilia’s hand. When he does, he thinks he sees her smile mischievously.

(I guess even princesses read popular novels...)

Allen also loves to read, so much that he frequents the library of the princess palace. He has been familiar with adventure novels and heroic tales since he was a child.

“Is there a time limit on this?”

“You can read at your own pace. You can go back now. I’m sorry we didn’t get to talk more today, Allen.”

“Not at all, please call on me again anytime.”

Allen leaves Elphilia’s room with the novel. A hugely popular mass-market novel lent to him by the princess. He has no choice but to read it now!

“...This is!”

Allen is reading a fiction novel while walking down a hallway of the palace. In the end, he couldn’t even resist until he reached his room. He had

intended to only quickly skim the first page, but he was drawn in so quickly that began devouring the rest of the book.

And as for the content of the book...

“This is too extreme!”

...That is the only way he can think to describe it.

The title of the novel has a dangerous atmosphere, but the contents are even more dangerous. The story takes place in a princess's palace in a certain kingdom. The heroine, the second in line of succession to the throne, falls in forbidden love with a male guard and former knight. Her half-sister, the first in line to the throne, sets a trap for the heroine in order to destroy her inheritance. However, through the power of love, the heroine and her bodyguard overcome the older sister's schemes.

(The heroine is completely modeled after Elphilia-sama.....)

In addition to the forbidden love of the princess, there is the struggle for succession among sisters in the royal palace. It is so realistic that it seems as if the author has peeked into the current situation in the royal palace. But since sequels to this “Princess's Secret Series” have been written for years, it seems that the contents are only coincidental.

(Forbidden love doesn't ring a bell, but the characters are lively and this makes the book quite interesting to read. However, if Lady Elphilia is the model for the heroine, then the model for the rival half-sister must be.....)

As Allen wonders about this...

“Guard! Is there an guard around?”

...He hears a girl's voice ringing in his head.

Allen had walked all the way to the entrance hall of the princess palace. It seems that he was so absorbed in reading that he was walking in a completely different direction from his room.

“You can’t hide! Come out now!”

“...You called for a guard?”

Allen turns back toward the voice. Two girls are entering the hall from the front doorway. Upon seeing them, Allen instantly kneels down on the spot – for it was the first princess with her own guard in tow who appears before him. The first thing that catches his eye is her dazzling appearance. Her short bobbed hair is a dazzling gold color, as is the ruffled dress she wears. The way her entire body shines like a halo, combined with her tall stature, gives her an enormous presence. Her eyebrows are raised in a confident manner. Large, emerald eyes that turn downwards at the edges. A face that still has a childish appearance, but wet, glossy lips that give off a mature sex appeal. Her expression proves eloquently, even without saying a word, that she is a true princess.

First in line to the throne.

First Princess Gabriella Virginia. Seventeen years old, she is Elphilia’s older half-sister.

“You must be Elphilia’s new bodyguard. Why don’t you come over here?”

“Ya-yeh...!”

Allen immediately rushes over to her as he was told. Gabriella is taller than Elphilia by a fist. She is not a short person by any means, but when confronted with the large Allen, she has no choice but to look up. She naturally adopts a posture where she is thrusting her chest out, and her slender body line is revealed through the frilly dress.

“You-you’re, so huge.....”

“Haa..... Should I sit down then?”

“I-I’m not intimidated! Don’t feel good about yourself just because you’re a little cool!”

Gabriella is angry and her lips are pouting. The overwhelming aura of royalty that was there just a few moments ago has completely disappeared.

“No way, I didn’t think she really hired a male……”

Gabriella spins around, turning her back to him, and talks to herself.

“What the hell is Elphilia thinking, inviting a man into a princess palace where men are forbidden…… She’s not really doing those kinds of things, is she? I’m older than her and I’ve don’t have any experience with that kind of—”

“Umm, is there something I can help you with?”

“Yes, I’m sure she is. That girl has a nice body. It should be a piece of cake for her to seduce a guy or two. Hrm, I wish I had that kind of confidence in my body…… No, no, what am I thinking about!”

Gabriella is completely absorbed in her own world.

Both of her shoulders were shaking slightly.

“Gabriella-sama, may I ask what you needed?”

Allen peeks around her and calls out.

In response…

“Ugyaaa——!!”

…Gabriella screams out as if she was being attacked by a monster.

“Diana! Diana, help me!

“Yes, yes, what happened?”



“This huge guy was getting close to me!”

“I think it was Gabriella-sama who called him and then proceeded to ignore him... Oh?”

Gabriella called out to the female guard who had come to escort her.

“Allen-dono! Is it really you Allen-dono?”

“You’re Diana! You’re working as a royal bodyguard then?”

The unexpected reunion brings a surge of joy to his heart. Gabriella’s bodyguard, Diana Laurent, was Allen’s junior in the Royal Order of Knights.

“Yes! It’s been a long time!”

She is nineteen years old. She is even taller than Gabriella and has a slender silhouette. Like Allen, she wears a white uniform with a metal breastplate and a longsword at her waist.

Her long, pale pink hair and round eyes give her a soft air, uncharacteristic of a guard. Her cheerful smile gives her a lively and refreshing impression. She has the air of a nursery school teacher rather than a guard.

“So it’s true that you’ve become Elphilia-sama’s bodyguard!?”

“Aa! I was in trouble because of a leg injury when I was called upon.”

“As expected of Allen-dono. Congratulations on your new role!”

Allen and Diana shake hands firmly on the spot. Diana had originally studied under Allen as a female member of the Royal Order of Knights. Thanks to her, Allen’s shyness towards women had been alleviated.

“If you have time, how about we practice together again?”

Diana's sparkling eyes have not changed since her days as a Royal Knight. Allen had long felt that she is not overly feminine, in a good way.

"I'd love to. If we both get some time off, we should definitely do it."

"Yes! Now we can be together like before!"

"Hey, hey, hey!"

Gabriella suddenly interrupts. She clings to Diana's back tightly with tears in her eyes.

"Why are you two being so chummy? Get rid of him!"

"Don't worry, Gabriella-sama. Allen-dono is a kind person."

"Grrr! You don't understand! All men are animals!"

Gabriella glares at Allen with moist eyes from behind Diana's back. She looks like a child being coddled by her mother.

"He pretends to be a gentleman, but deep down inside, he's a man with nothing but lust in his heart!"

"There's no way. That's not true, right Allen-dono?"

The two girls look at him, one with childishness, the other with respect. Allen nods his head powerfully.

"I intend to be a man who lives up to my rank."

"That's right! When I was in the Royal Order, I ate and slept in the same room as Allen-dono, and he never laid a hand on me or even gave me dirty looks. He respects all women and honors chivalry... Allen-dono is that kind of person."

"Well, if Diana says that much, I'm willing to forgive this occasion..."

Finally, forgiveness comes from Gabriella's mouth. Allen is relieved when he hears it when suddenly...

“Ah! Allen-sama! What are you doing here?”

...Marie bounds down from the stairwell of the entrance hall. She does a somersault and lands between Allen and Diana.

“Hee!?”

Unsurprisingly, Gabriella is startled and falls over backwards. It seems that Gabriella is easily frightened by anything.

“Wh-what is that... Ah!”

The moment she sees Marie's face, Gabriella looks as if she noticed something. Then, she shook her head in anger.

“How dare a ma-maid barge in on me! Get out of here!”

“Eh? Who is this person?”

Marie's lips twitch with irritation. She must not know that she is dealing with the first princess. Marie turns on her heel and walks away, wagging her tail.

(What was with Gabriella's reaction... as if she knew Marie?)

“Ah...”

Allen feels a prickling sensation at the thought.

(No, but, is it really that simple?)

While Allen is having trouble believing his own intuition...

“Onee-sama, you've arrived.”

This time, Elphilia appears, dressed in official attire. Of course, she is accompanied by her maid and bodyguard, Kurone.

(The two princesses from the romance novel that are in a succession battle, are meeting face to face.....)

Even though he knows it is a fictional story, Allen still feels nervous. In fact, he senses an air of tension between the two half-sisters. Gabriella, the first in line to the throne, and Elphilia, reputed to be the most intelligent of the half-sisters... Apparently, their relationship is not a good one.

“Elphilia..... You really hired a male guard, did you?”

Gabriella finally emerges from behind Diana’s back and approaches Elphilia. Gabriella is taller than Elphilia, so Elphilia is looking up at her, but to Allen, Elphilia looms much larger than Gabriella. Gabriella is glaring at her, while Elphilia smiles gently and acts genuinely pleased with her sister’s visit.

“I decided to hire him because I thought it would benefit my entire princess palace.”

“Grrr... This is just like in those vulgar romance novels! I hate them!”

Gabriella’s mouth curls up in a grimace.

“Vulgar... are they?”

“Of course they’re vulgar! They make a fuss about a succession battle that doesn’t exist in real life, and they even use real people as models to do all kinds of those things... I don’t even like the storyline in that novel! Why am I a villain who doesn’t get to date a knight.....?”

“You know... Are you sure you don’t like it?”

Elphilia asks timidly. As expected, Gabriella raises her eyebrows in a scowl.

“Wh-what is there to doubt!?”

“You know so much about the contents of.....”

“Nnnah—”

Immediately, Gabriella turns red up to her ears. Her blush is so spectacular that it wouldn't be surprising to see steam coming out of her. Gabriella flinches and backs away, then spins around to look at Diana.

“Diana! We've seen the guard's face, let's go home!”

“Ah, yes! Yes, ma'am!”

Diana bows and says...

“Allen-dono, let me know when you have a day off!”

“Sure, I'll tell you my schedule later”.

Gabriella and Diana leave the princess palace, and the entrance hall is finally released from the tense atmosphere.

Allen is finally relieved from the bottom of his heart.

“Allen-sama, Elphilia-sama has a very important matter to discuss with you.”

As soon as Kurone approaches him, she whispers this in his ear. “An important matter?”

“Yes. We can't talk here, so let's move to Allen-sama's room.”

“So this is Allen's room... It has a simple and calm atmosphere.”

Elphilia is observing the whole room with great interest. Kurone told him that there was something important to discuss, but the princess has been like this ever since he brought them to his room. Allen is sitting on his bed, puzzled by the situation he is in.

(Marie and Kurone notwithstanding, I can't believe Elphilia-sama came to my room...)

He now regrets not having thought to decorate with at least flowers.

"This is the pillow Allen is using."

Elphilia picks up the pillow and starts sniffing it. Allen quickly snatches the pillow out of her hands.

"Wh-what are you doing, Elphilia-sama!?"

"It smells so nostalgic. It's soothing."

He didn't expect not only Marie but also Elphilia to want to smell it.

(Do women care about men's smells?)

While Allen mulls this over, Kurone, who can't help but watch them, offers a helping hand.

"Elphilia-sama, we don't have much time before the meeting."

"Oh dear, I almost forgot in all the excitement."

Elphilia finally gets down to business.

"Apparently, my room was peeped on between this morning and noon."

"Peeping?"

Allen stands up from his bed in surprise. This is an emergency situation that can hardly be compared to a maid's bath being peeked into.

"Isn't Elphilia-sama's room protected by warding magic?"

"That should be the case... Kurone, take it out."

"Yes, ma'am."

At Elphilia's request, Kurone takes out a crystal ball from the luggage she has been carrying. The crystal ball is small enough to hold in one hand and emits a pale red light.

"This crystal ball glows red when it senses magic power from outside."

Elphilia nods her head.

"It's not that I don't trust Rebecca's warding magic, but I keep it in my room as protection just in case. And it was after I gave Allen the book that I noticed this crystal ball was glowing red."

"Isn't Rebecca's warding magic supposed to be unalterable to anyone but herself?"

"That's right. But I don't think Rebecca would be spying on me....."

Allen reflects on today's events.

Rebecca's behavior was quite suspicious, to say the least. However, there is no proof that she was the culprit, and in the absence of evidence, they could not question her too rigorously.

Even if they check to see if the warding magic has been tampered with, it would be easy for someone as skilled as Rebecca to erase the evidence of her peeping.

If there was a letter instructing her to commit the crime, it would be easy to solve the problem, but such a letter would have been destroyed by now.

"In this case, we'll have to use an indirect method."

"Did you come up with a plan?"

"It's not a particularly laudable approach, but this is an emergency and we have to do it."

If this clears Rebecca's name, all the better. If his suspicions are confirmed... they'll need to take appropriate action.

The three left Allen's room and went separate ways at the entrance hall.

The most important thing is to catch the culprit before any information leaks out. When Allen looks around for her, he finds Rebecca in the courtyard of the princess palace. Sitting on a wooden bench, she is gazing at the colorful flowerbeds with a vacant look on her face.

"What a coincidence, Rebecca."

"Oh, Allen-sama..."

"Is it okay if I sit next to you?"

Rebecca nodded silently, so Allen sits down next to her. He then places the novel he had brought on the bench. He looks at Rebecca with a sideways glance and sees that she still looks drained. He doesn't want her to look at him with undue admiration, but when he sees her in such a lethargic condition, he can't help but wonder how he can help her. He has to remain suspicious of her, which makes him feel guilty.

(But this is part of the job of a high-level interrogator.)

Allen steels himself again.

"What's Rebecca doing here? Is something the matter?"

"No, I'm..."

"I was looking for a place to settle down and read. I borrowed a book Elphilia was reading earlier."

"Huh? She gave you that book?"

Surprised, Rebecca jumps up from the wooden bench.

Allen had heard that she is also an avid reader of that particular romance novel. Perhaps she is remembering the contents, for her face turns bright red in an instant. She seems to be reading some very mature things, but

looking at her embarrassed reaction, he is a bit relieved to find that she has sensibilities appropriate for her age.

“It was quite interesting, so I’ve been binge reading it.”

“B-but that book has... The princess who looks just like Elphilia-onee-sama appears in the book, and there is a guard who is in a similar situation to Allen-sama, and that...umm, well, that! I mean, I’ve never read it, but my friends told me about it... It’s definitely not that I’ve read it myself—”

“Rebecca.”

He should stop her as soon as possible.

“You were the one who peeped into Elphilia-sama’s room, weren’t you?”

“Eh?”

Sweat breaks out on Rebecca’s face and her legs begin to tremble slightly. The way she is trying desperately to act normal, with her inner thighs squeezed tightly together, Allen finds very touching.

I never said that the book I borrowed was from the “Princess’s Secret” series. When you heard that it was a book that Elphilia-sama was reading, you jumped to that conclusion yourself... You must have remembered the book Elphilia-sama was reading while sunbathing this morning.”

“N-no..... It was— that’s it!”

Rebecca points to the book Allen had left on the bench.

“I saw the spine of the book, so I figured it out from that!

“Unfortunately, that excuse doesn’t work.”

Allen picks up the book and shows the cover to Rebecca.

“This is my favorite adventure novel.”

“Th-that’s.....”

“I didn’t expect you to fall for it so perfectly. I’m grateful.”

Rebecca’s flushed face rapidly turns white as a sheet.

She sat flat on the ground, turned down and couldn’t speak a word. She slumps down on the ground and does not speak a word. She couldn’t care less if her characteristic, beautiful blonde hair is stained with dirt.

“Rebecca, I’m detaining you.”

Allen tells her as a high-level interrogator. He wants to move quickly to avoid the attention of anyone in the palace that doesn’t know the circumstances.

Allen escorted Rebecca to the interrogation room and decided to start with a one-on-one discussion to find out her true motives.

Rebecca was surprised to learn that Allen is a high-ranking interrogator, as well as about the existence of a high-ranking interrogator position in the princess palace. When he explained to her that this case was related to Elphilia’s future prospects, she turned even more pale and became silent. Rebecca, who adores Elphilia, refused to talk even when she learned of her beloved sister’s predicament.

(If she was just curious and wanted to peek into the princess’s private life... If it were that simple, an honest apology would have been enough to make this a laughing matter... but it isn’t that simple.)

He decided to start the full-scale interrogation after sunset, once Elphilia had finished her meeting. To be sure, he left Elphilia and Rebecca to talk alone, but unfortunately, even then Rebecca would not confess what she was hiding.

“Allen, please begin...”

Allen, who had been waiting outside the iron bars of the room, is called back to the interrogation room by Elphilia. Elphilia is still wearing her

official dress, as she had come directly from the meeting at the royal palace. Although different from the ultra-thin dresses she usually wears in her room, it still hugs her figure tightly.

“I did a search, but she doesn’t have anything incriminating on her.”

“Thank you for confirming, Elphilia-sama.”

“About Rebecca, please.....”

Elphilia looks demoralized. She is about to interrogate her adored little sister, so she is understandably depressed. She was probably even more shocked that Rebecca wasn’t willing to talk to her when they were alone. Even Allen, who is ignorant of women’s emotions, could understand Elphilia’s pain.

“Pl-please don’t look.....”

Rebecca is sitting in a chair in the middle of the interrogation room. Unlike when Marie was interrogated, she is not shackled in any way. However, because of the danger of having magic tools hidden on her person, she is dressed in a swimsuit that Elphilia had prepared for her.

However, the swimsuit is very revealing. It is so thin that it is almost a piece of string, so it really only covers the bare minimum amount of skin, exposing everything from her modest, still-growing breasts to her slightly chubby belly that gives the impression of a young girl.

Rebecca is bending over to try to hide her body. However, this also hides her string-like swimsuit, making it look as if she was wearing nothing at all.

Her bare, slender arms and calves are truly radiant.

(I couldn’t bear to strip her down to her underwear myself, but I didn’t expect this...)

Allen is inwardly embarrassed, but he tries not to let his feelings show on his face. If he acts embarrassed here, Rebecca would be even more ashamed.

“Rebecca, stand up.”

“Y-Yes...”

“Keep your hands down by your sides and don’t cover yourself.”

“Uuu, it’s embarrassing...”

Rebecca, dressed in the swimsuit, stands up and Allen examines her from all sides, scrutinizing every part of her body. There is no doubt that she is nervous, as she is sweating all over and rubbing the insides of her thighs together. Even so, Allen’s power “The Grim Reaper’s Eyes” did not reveal any weaknesses.

(Is it obstructed by the elves’ natural magical power? Or does a weakness not exist at all... No, I shouldn’t get upset over something like this! There are ways to do this even if I can’t see a weakness.)

...However, his opponent is a 14-year-old girl. The kind of technique he used on Elphilia would be dangerous for Rebecca’s immature body.

(In that case... could I try a similar technique to what I used on Marie?)

Allen raises the index finger of his right hand and touches Rebecca’s inner thigh.

“Hya!? A, Allen-sama!?”

Rebecca reflexively closes her legs and both armpits. Most humans usually assume such a posture in response to such an unexpected stimulus...

“Rebecca, stand straight.”

“Eh... But, that tickles.....”

“Hey, Rebecca. I hear you’re one of the best students at school, right?”

“Huh?”

Rebecca seems to be overwhelmed by the sudden change in topic.

Elphilia, who has been watching the scene, adds...

“Rebecca has the highest grades at the Royal Academy of Magic. A year ago, I heard that a very talented girl was having a hard time living away from her parents. After meeting with her, I decided to support her in her life.”

“An honors student whose talents were recognized by the princess..... Then I’m sure you can follow my instructions, right?”

“Eh, ehrrrrr.....”

Rebecca still straightens her posture, even though she looks like she is having a hard time with what she just heard. Allen thought that she must be an honors student at heart, as he had sensed back when she broke up a fight between the maids.

Allen lightly traces Rebecca’s skin with a fingernail.

“Nnn... Tha-that tickles.....”

From her inside around to the back of her thighs and from there up to the hollow of her navel. He moves to her ribs that are slightly raised, and then to her completely smooth armpits.

“No, st-stop..... Kuu... Nnn...”

Rebecca’s body reacts sensitively, but it still doesn’t feel like he’s found a weak point. Allen moves on to tickle the nape of her neck and then up to her pointed elf ears.

(I’ve heard that elves have particularly sensitive ears. But apparently just being touched by a member of another race can make them furious and cause unbearable anger...)

It is a gamble of sorts for Allen.

“Nnm... Haa.....”

Rebecca actually looks rather relaxed.

(Is she the type of elf that doesn't mind having her ears touched? Or maybe... am I making a terrible assumption?)

Allen tries recalling Rebecca's words and actions in detail. It wasn't just that she was snooping around Elphilia's room. There must have been a number of unnatural things about her.

(If my guess is correct, the best interrogation method is...)

At that moment, Allen comes up with an idea.

“Elphilia, I want you to take off your clothes.”

“Ye-yes! I'm happy to!”

Just as she had done when they interrogated Marie, Elphilia begins to undress. When she takes off her official dress, she reveals a simpler set of undergarments than usual.

She also takes off her underwear and hastily exposes all of her soft skin to the open air.

(I didn't want you to take off that much...)

Allen decides not to say anything because he doesn't want to break the tension in the middle of the interrogation.

“E-Elphilia-sama is... n-n-naked?”

“Isn't this the second time you've seen me naked today?”

“I'm sorry, I'm sorry!”

Embarrassed and apologetic, Rebecca closes her eyes and turns her face downward. Elphilia moves to hug her from behind.

“Hyah... Something soft is touching my back!?”

“Rebecca’s body is so lean and soft. And your skin is so smooth.”

“Th-that is, but... Elphilia-onee-sama’s body is much more...”

“Is that so? You won’t know for sure until you touch it, will you?”

“Tou-touch it... I can’t do something like that!”

While the two girls are getting some skinship, Allen uses a speaker tube installed in the wall of the interrogation room. The tube is a device that allows a person to speak into a funnel-shaped receiver, which then passes through a metal tube that extends from the receiver to a remote location. The tube was connected to a room on the first floor of the princess palace, where Kurone is waiting for instruction.

“Kurone, may I ask for some hot water.”

““Yes, sir. I’ll send it to you in a few minutes.””

A few minutes after Kurone’s reply, warm water pours out of a tap in the corner of the interrogation room. Hot water, boiled in the kitchens of the palace, is available for use in the interrogation room. The cobblestone floors in the interrogation room are waterproof and it is equipped with drainage channels, so that interrogations using large amounts of water can be conducted.

Allen takes a bar of soap from the cupboard and hands it to Elphilia.

“Elphilia, I want you to wash Rebecca’s entire body.”

“Eh? Umm, aah..... So that’s what this is all about.”

Apparently, Elphilia also noticed the trick this time. Allen checks the temperature of the water with his hand. The water is too warm for soaking up to the shoulders in the bath, but just right for washing the body.

“Erm, washing... N-no, please don’t do that! Something like that is...!”

Rebecca also realizes what is going to happen to her in a few moments.

“Then are you going to tell us all about it?”

“Well... that’s...”

If she still isn’t willing to take the plunge, the only option left is the rough treatment. Allen pours a bucket of the warm water on Rebecca. After repeating the process several times, she is completely soaked.

“Now, let’s get started.”

Elphilia lathers the soap in her palms and smears the resulting foam all over her own body. Then, she pressed her bubbly body tightly against Rebecca’s back. Elphilia’s soft bust contorts to press snugly against the small elf girl’s shape.

(Oi, oi, is it even possible to wash her in that manner?)

Although he was the one who gave the instructions, Allen has to make every effort to avoid looking away from the spectacle. But the result is outstanding, and Rebecca’s expression has already begun to melt sweetly.

“Onee-sama..... Yaa! Don’t touch me there♥”

“We’ve never taken a bath together, even though I’ve invited you so many times.”

“I was too afraid to do that...”

“No, you just wanted to keep it a secret, didn’t you?”

“Nnaah... Please don’t say such a mean thing♥”

Every time Elphilia rubs her bubbly chest against Rebecca, Rebecca’s still-developing body twists and turns, and she lets out a sweet, aching sound. Her body is like a musical instrument being played by Elphilia’s slender, beautiful fingers.

“Fufu... It’s making me feel good too, Rebecca.”

“Aahn♥ my onee-sama, is feeling good with me too... nnnh♥”

Whenever Elphilia touches her in a sensitive spot, Rebecca reacts by shivering. Every time Elphilia’s breasts and hips sway about soapy bubbles splash onto the cobblestone floor. The gentle scent of soap is mixed with a sweet, feminine smell.

“Onee-sama♥ my onee-sama is right in front of me♥”

Elphilia is now hugging Rebecca from the front. Their chests and bellies are pressed against each other, their bodies almost sticking to each other. Their faces are staring at each other at a distance where their noses are almost touching.

“I’m glad I get to be so close with Rebecca. You’re such a sweet girl.”

“Onee-sama is much more... aah♥ of course you are prettier... hhiinn♥”

Elphilia, who embodies the ideal womanly beauty, and Rebecca, who’s immature body is still growing into womanhood... Allen stands there completely mesmerized by the sensual melody being played by these two contrasting beauties.

A change finally manifests in Rebecca’s body.

“Oh... D-d-don’t look at me!”

Paint begins to flow down off of her pure white skin, revealing a tan color underneath.

Now, Elphilia’s body washing accelerates. She pins Rebecca’s arms firmly between her cleavage and her legs between her thighs, and then pistons her entire body to wash off the paint in one efficient motion.

The soap being used, like the medicinal solution, was specially formulated by Elphilia. It can remove not only ordinary dirt, but also contamination

that has been infused with magical power. It seems she originally designed it to wash away the blood of demons.

After Elphilia finishes washing Rebecca's body, she begins to wash her hair. The dazzling blonde hair, typical of the elves, is quickly washed away and transforms into beautiful black hair, the color of a raven's feathers.

Her pointed elf ears were also changing. When Elphilia rubs them with her fingertips and soapy foam, the pointiness gradually disappears, and they became round like normal human ears. Just as she had changed her skin and hair with paint, she must have used some material to make fake elf ears.

At this point, Allen is finally able to sense Rebecca's weakness. Her weak point is all over her skin, but it seems that the paint, infused with magic power, had made it impossible for him to detect. Coincidentally, the full body scrub to remove the paint had hit precisely on that weak point.

(Well, it doesn't matter if I can see her weakness when we're already at point...)

As a finishing touch, Allen splashes their bodies with another bucket of the warm water, rinsing off a large amount of foam, and hands them towels he had prepared earlier. Elphilia begins to wipe off Rebecca's body, before taking care of herself.

She uses a gentle touch, like caring for a kitten soaked by the rain.

"Rebecca... You're an Easterner, aren't you?"

Rebecca nods silently at the question.

Even though she appeared to be an elf, her ears weren't a weak point, and she was kind to Easterners, whom most elves seem to dislike very much. There could only be one explanation. Rebecca is not an elf, but a human, and she was from the East, which is generally considered a backwater.



“My... my name isn’t really Rebecca White.”

Rebecca, who had remained silent, finally opens her mouth.

Allen’s “Power to See Through Lies” makes it clear that she is now telling the truth.

“My real name is Reiko Kaneshiro..... I’m just a normal human from the eastern part of the kingdom. I was accepted to the Royal Academy of Magic because of my talent in magic... but I heard that Easterners are made fun of in the city and won’t be able to make friends, so I dressed up as an elf to take the entrance exam.”

Rebecca has the talent to handle warding magic that most wizards aren’t able to use. Even if she pretended to be an elf with naturally high magical power, she would not have been suspicious during the examination. However, even so, she must have been worried that she would one day be discovered in her daily life.

“And you’ve been pretending to be an elf ever since?”

“Yes.....”

Rebecca chokes back her tears.

She tightly purses her lips and trembles a little, looking as if she is about to burst into all out crying.

“But, just yesterday, I found a threatening letter in my room.”

“A threatening letter?”

“To tamper with the warding magic and spy on Elphilia-onee-sama’s room. Otherwise, they would tell everyone about my true identity... But I swear that I didn’t tell anyone about what I saw!”

“So that’s what happened.”

Not only Elphilia, but Allen also sympathizes with Rebecca's position. For Rebecca, it was a matter of life and death for her identity as an Easterner to be discovered. It is hard for Allen to imagine the pain of having to weigh the life of her beloved onee-sama against her own life.

"It's no good anymore... Now that you've seen me like this..."

"Oh my? Do you think I won't still love you?"

"Huh!?"

Elphilia's unexpected words cause Rebecca to look back at her in surprise.

"Wh-what do you mean!? I don't understand at all!!"

"Whether you are an elf or an Easterner, my feelings won't change at all. You are a young and talented wizard, you have a sense of justice, are kinder than anyone else, yet a little bit lonely..... I really like you very much."

"Onee-sama....."

Elphilia gives her a gentle smile like a goddess. Crying like a little child, Rebecca hugs her favorite onee-sama. Elphilia gently strokes her head as she sobs into her chest. Allen feels as if he is seeing a bond between the two of them that is even stronger than that of real sisters.

"Of course, I also cherish Rebecca."

"Allen-sama, too."

"Thank you for telling us honestly. I love you even more now."

"Th-that's... I love you too!"

Rebecca's cheeks turn red. But it is only for a moment.

"But if I don't do anything, the person who sent the letter will reveal my secret."

“In that case, why don’t you just reveal it yourself?”

“Fueh?”

Rebecca is so surprised when she hears Allen’s casual suggestion that her tears come to a stop.

“Do-does that mean telling everyone I’m not an elf?”

“That’s right.”

Allen looks Rebecca straight in the eye.

“It doesn’t make any difference if Rebecca is an elf or a human... No, your human and your elf appearances are both cute Rebeccas. Elphilia-sama and I both love you. I’m sure that your school friends and everybody in the princess palace will still love you too.”

“I-I see..... Ehehe... you really love me that much...♥”

Rebecca acts bashful and wriggles her inner thighs together.

If honest praise can make her so happy, then she is probably okay now. Allen sighs with relief that his work for the day is now complete.

Th-that’s right! I’ll wipe your body now, onee-sama!”

Rebecca picks up a towel and begins to dry Elphilia’s body. Allen watched the two of them smiling with satisfaction.

X

After the interrogation, an investigation into the sender of the blackmail letter was conducted, but unfortunately, no promising leads were found. The letter included instructions that it should be destroyed, so Rebecca had already disposed of it.

However, even if the letter had remained, it would likely not have provided much information. There was no indication of when or to whom the

information obtained from the spying would be communicated, and no new instructions were sent to Rebecca since then.

Allen personally has a idea who was behind this, but in the absence of conclusive evidence, he could only hope that no new schemes would target Elphilia.

It is a particular morning during a long period of peace and quiet. While Allen is training in the front yard of the princess palace, Rebecca arrives with three of her schoolmates. Not only are they wearing the same school uniform as Rebecca, but all three are pointy-eared elves.

But they are not real elves. In fact, they are human girls with false ears and elvish-style makeup. As evidence, their hair, skin, and eyes are all different colors. Rebecca's coming out had been a huge success. The reason why is that the elf-like makeup she wore has become very popular among the female students at the Royal Academy of Magic.

Rebecca already had a reputation as an honors student, but now, as a fashion guru, she has become even more popular at her school. Her friends have not only increased, but have doubled in number.

“Allen-sama!”

Rebecca rushes over as soon as she sees him.

“I’m having a study session with everyone today!”

Since her coming out, Rebecca has been using both her elf makeup and her real appearance.

Today, she is in her elf makeup, with her silky, flowing, blonde hair. Her make-up should be the same as before, but mysteriously she looks prettier than when Allen first met her. Perhaps it is Rebecca's newfound confidence that overflows from her that makes her so attractive.

While thinking about this, Allen is surrounded by the three schoolgirls.

“The former-royal-knight bodyguard, is it really him?”

“Uh, umm... Can I have your autograph!?”

“You have beautiful biceps... Ufufufu.....”

They are a truly unique trio, partly because they are wearing the elven makeup.

In the past, Allen would have pretended to be a strict person and casually shooed them away, but perhaps because he and Rebecca had become friends, Allen is honestly happy to be surrounded by the girls.

“I’m sorry, Allen-sama. Everyone insisted on meeting you.”

“If you are asking Rebecca, of course it’s no big deal.”

Allen tries to answer in a casual manner.

“ “ “KYAAA” ” ”

All three schoolgirls make a high-pitched squeal together.

(I’m still not used to this excitement, though...)

For a while after that, Allen stands around talking with the schoolgirls. Seeing Rebecca’s happy face makes him feel really glad that he had handled the interrogation so well. A good interrogation doesn’t hurt the mind or body, but rather relieves the subject of the worries they are having.

Allen swears to himself to protect her from the clutches of whatever mastermind was behind the plot. As a high-level interrogator, as a bodyguard, as a chivalrous man, he thinks he is doing well.

The three schoolgirls finish standing around and run off toward the princess palace. Rebecca follows behind her friends.

“Allen-sama, I love you!”

She looks back and gives him a big smile.

Chapter 4 - The Princess, Reprise

The days since Rebecca's interrogation have been peaceful at the princess palace. No new assassins had been sent in, and the succession battle had not become public. Allen has spent his time in his own way, not fretting about the current situation, but not letting his guard down either.

"So I said to the ruffians, 'At the hands of villains like you, who have no sense of righteousness or humanity, the Beautiful Girl Thief, Marie, will never lose.'"

"Marie-san, you're so cool!"

"He had ten men with him, but I didn't flinch. With lightning speed, I took them out one by one. Of course, I tied them all up and dragged them out into the streets. As a rule I never kill."

"A-amazing! Marie is a thief of justice!"

Elphilia has been very busy lately, so on days when she doesn't call on Allen, and when Rebecca's school only has morning classes, the three of them get together like this. It is a mystery why Marie, who is supposed to be working, is participating.

Recently, Marie's "Legend of the Beautiful Girl Thief Marie" has been a lot of fun for them. Allen knows she is just telling stories, but Rebecca enjoys them, so Allen decides to listen quietly.

(By the way, when did those two become so close? Rebecca, the honors student, is totally smitten with Marie, the delinquent maid...)

"What's wrong, Allen-sama?"

Marie, who was sitting on the bench across from him, moves to sit next to Allen.

“Maybe you were fascinated by how cute I am?”

“Ah-Is that true, Allen-sama!?”

Following Marie, Rebecca sits herself on Allen’s other side. Allen is sandwiched between two girls. A slender cat-eared girl and a blonde elf girl, he truly has a flower in each hand.

“I was wondering how you two became friends.”

“Eh!?”

It was Rebecca who blushes at the question. Except for the fake elf ears, her entire face is prettily flushed.

“Ah... do you want to hear about that?”

Marie’s cheeks are also flushed with some mix of joy and embarrassment. She puts her palms to her face and twists around like a flirty child.

“Actually... I told her about the wonderful night Allen-sama and I spent together♥”

“Nnnm———”

Allen looks alternately at Marie and Rebecca’s faces in surprise. Rebecca shivers while clutching the hem of her skirt. On the other hand, Marie is staring into the distance with sparkling eyes.

“That day Allen-sama was so forceful, he suddenly brought me into his room♥ I was worried because I hadn’t even showered yet, but when Allen-sama hugged me so tightly, I didn’t care about that... I just gave him my lips like he asked———”

“Hold on! Nothing like that happened!”

“Even though he usually acts like a gentleman, after all, men are all beasts inside aren’t they♥? He was so passionate, so the situation caught me by surprise♥ After that, we both took our clothes off and instinctively jumped straight into bed♥”

Marie’s theater of delusions overflows without end.

(Did you teach this to Rebecca? Did you really teach it?)

Rebecca, while sitting next to Allen, is completely turned away from him, her little back shaking. She seems to be quite a bit more mature than Allen expected, including being a fan of a certain romance novel.

(I’ve heard that girls grow up faster than boys... No, this isn’t the time to escape reality by acting like such a calm and analytical person.)

When Allen finally tries to stop Marie...

“So this is where you’ve been slacking off!”

...Kurone suddenly appears and delivers a sharp chop to the crown of Marie’s head.

“Haunn~♥”

Marie flops to the ground with a twinkle in her eye. Kurone gives her a look as if she were looking at trash.

“So instead of working hard, she was chatting with Allen-sama and Rebecca-sama... Perhaps it’s time to punish her seriously. I have to make sure that it is engraved on her body that she is only kept alive by the Elphilia-sama’s mercy——”

“Kurone, you really saved my life.”

If left alone, Kurone’s words could turn into something seriously frightening. After Allen thanks her, she turns around with a fluffy smile.

“N-no... I was just doing my job...”

Kurone tries to cover her reddened cheeks with her hands. However, she didn't think to hide her smoldering pink lips.

“Let's see... hey, Rebecca?”

“Y-yes!?”

Rebecca finally comes to her senses in response to Allen calling out to her. She is drenched in sweat, her skin showing through the thin blouse of her school uniform.

“I've never done anything improper with Marie.”

“O-Oh, is that right?”

“And by the way, “The Legend of the Beautiful Girl Thief Marie” is a lie, too.”

“Ehhh!?”

Rebecca ends up depressed, emphasized by her thick eyebrows arching upwards.

“But it is true that we slept in the same bed together!”

Marie suddenly jumps up from the ground. Kurone grabs her by the collar as if she is a kitten.

“You just crawled into his bed on your own, didn't you? You didn't spend the night together, you just woke up early and snuck in. It's a total fabrication, FAB-RI-CA-TION!”

“Saying all that, isn't it just that Kurone is envious?”

Glance.

Kurone looks at Allen with a sideways glance.

Glance.

Then, for some reason, Rebecca looks at him in the same way.

(What kind of phenomenon is this?)

Allen is at a loss.

“Oh, yes! I have got something to tell you!”

Kurone puts her hands together in a hurried gesture.

“Tomorrow we’re having a picnic with Elphilia-sama!”

X

The next day at teatime, they all head to the lake in the princess section. Allen, Elphilia, Kurone, Marie, and Rebecca... It is the first time these five are all together.

{TL: “Teatime” is “oyatsu” in the raws, meaning between 2-4, or snack time, though Kurone uses the katakana for teatime below.}

“I’m sorry, both of you. I’m a guy, and yet I’m empty-handed.”

“It’s teatime, so leave the preparations to us maids.”

Kurone is effortlessly carrying a large basket. She must be looking forward to it because her steps are lighter than anyone else.

“Oh... so heavy... why am I the only one with this much luggage.....”

Behind her, Marie has been forced to push the serving cart all the way from the princess palace.

“This is the consequence for always skipping work.”

“Aaahh, demon maid!”

“It’s just a little further, I’ll help you.”

Rebecca, not enjoying seeing Marie struggle, begins to push the cart with her. She is wearing a casual dress since she has today off from school.

“That’s a very stylish outfit. Is it an Eastern style dress?”

“Oh, yes! Yes, it is!”

Rebecca blushes happily when Elphilia compliments her on her dress. It is an Eastern-style “harmony” design. It is characterized by a corset-like obi that wraps around her waist with a large butterfly knot at the back.

{TL: For literal translation of “harmony”, look up “Japanese Wa”.}

“But Elphilia-once-sama’s dress is much nicer!”

“Is it? Thank you, Rebecca.”

Smiling back at her, Elphilia wears a long dress of her signature white color that has a very mature feeling. The look is accessorized by a wide-brimmed hat and elbow-length silk gloves, greatly enhancing the mature appearance.

“What do you think Allen?”

“I think I look good on you, too.”

“Does it make you feel like protecting me?”

“Ehh, yes, of course.”

“Thank you. Just once, I wanted to test it out.”

Test what?

Allen wonders for a moment, and then they arrive at the rest area. It is located on a hill overlooking the lakeside. There is a round table that could accommodate about ten people. The area is covered, so there is no need to worry about strong sunlight or sudden rain. It is a great place to enjoy the cool breeze.

In a short time, preparations for teatime are completed. On the table is a three-tiered tea stand with colorful cakes, macaroons, cream puffs, marshmallows, and other sweets arranged. Tea with plenty of milk and sugar is also available for each person. The cart Marie was pushing is even equipped with a water heater. The tea is warm and steamy, and the aroma of the leaves tickles Allen's nostrils.

Everyone sits down in their chairs. Clockwise from Allen, the order is Elphilia, Kurone, Marie, and Rebecca.

“Are you sure you want us to be present as well?”

Kurone looks apologetic. Elphilia smiles gently at her maid.

“Of course, Kurone. Let's have some fun today, shall we?”

“Bon appétit!”

As expected, Marie is the first to make a move. She reaches for an éclair and eats it with her hand.

“Yummy! I've never eaten such delicious food!”

“Ah, I'm not well-behaved ...”

“You... such poor manners.....”

Kurone sips her milk tea with a wearisome expression. Soon however, her expression softens. Thanks to the gathering of five friends, the conversation is lively and continuous.

Allen is asked about his days as a Royal Knight, and he tells them about a one-on-one duel with a leader of a bandit gang and the time he fought a dragon in a volcano.

Marie follows up by telling her story of the Beautiful Girl Thief Marie, to which the whole party chides her.

“That story, wouldn't it make for a good novel?”

Kurone makes a reasonable suggestion. Allen voices his agreement.

“It would be fun to turn it into an adventure novel. I think it’s a good idea.”

The scene in which Marie, who is trying to find a hidden treasure in some ancient ruins, is attacked by a mechanical doll made by the ancients, made his hands sweat even though he knew the story is made up. In the middle of the story, Marie is no longer just a thief but somehow becomes a treasure hunter, but he supposes that is a minor issue.

“I think it’s good too! It’s definitely good!”

Rebecca, too, is snorting with excitement.

However, despite the positive response, Marie sinks into her chair.

“I... umm... something like that...”

“What’s wrong, Marie-chan?”

“Reading and writing, umm, I don’t know how.....”

“I’ll teach you!”

Rebecca says without a moment’s pause.

“Well, is that okay? Isn’t that annoying?”

Marie says something that is uncharacteristically reluctant. Her feline ears and tail are drooping.

“I’ve never studied and I don’t remember things well...”

“Don’t worry. I’m an honors student after all!”

Rebecca proudly puffs out her chest.

“I’m good at teaching. Actually, I even want to be a teacher in the future!”

“Really!? I don’t want you to say you quit halfway through!”

Marie clasps Rebecca’s hand. A mixture of gratitude and anxiety, her eyes are completely welled with tears.

(It’s not just about having food, clothing, shelter, and work. It’s a fun life when you have friends...)

Allen felt his heart swell in his chest at this smiling scene of friendship. This was also something he had never experienced during his time with the Royal Order of Knights.

“I’m so happy for you, Marie.”

Elphilia is also smiling happily.

“Rebecca, will you look after Marie’s education for me?”

“Of course, onee-sama... Oh, but... it might conflict with her work hours.”

Rebecca looks back. Kurone exhales as if she is a bit disappointed.

“She’s barely been working as it is. It would be very helpful for me if Marie learned to read and write. But when you’re done, be prepared to learn how to be a proper maid as well!”

“Y-yes.....”

This time, Marie looks truly remorseful, but only God can know what she really feels. Allen is looking forward to seeing if she can grow here.

At this point, Rebecca suddenly changes the topic.

“Oh, that’s right! I had something I wanted to ask Elphilia-onee-sama!”

“What do you want to ask me?”

“It’s a story about Allen-sama! Is it true that you met when you were little?”

“Hmm... Then let's start from the beginning.”

Elphilia smiles mischievously, and Rebecca leans forward with all her strength. Marie, who had been about to cry, is tensing her cat ears and tail out of curiosity. Allen and Kurone listen quietly.

“This was when I was ten years old... Back then I was an out-of-control, disobedient girl.”

Elphilia begins her story from years ago.

Six years ago, Elphilia was, to put it mildly, rotten. In all the years that she could remember, she had never felt happy.

The Kingdom of Virginia has a number of ancient customs. One of them is that princesses live in the princess section, where boys are forbidden, and the princesses leave their mothers from an early age and are raised by nannies and educators.

The king taking multiple wives is an effective way to ensure a successor, but sometimes the queens fight to have their own children inherit the throne. For this reason, it is customary in the Kingdom of Virginia for the king and queen to stay out of their children's education.

Elphilia had never known the love of her family, and at the age of ten she had grown up to be an unruly, selfish girl. Her pranks annoyed everyone in the royal court, but no one had the authority to punish her, so instead they treated her as if she were an incurable disease.

(It's boring... There's nothing fun to do here...)

No matter how much delicious food she ate, what entertainment she was offered, or how much praise she received, Elphilia's heart was never satisfied. She could not get along with her half-sisters or with children of her own age.

The only thing that could ease her mind in such a situation was a prank. When she saw the adults in a panic, depressed and crying to themselves, she

felt as if it could relieve the ache deep in her heart.

On that day six years ago, Elphilia was up to her usual mischief. She had tampered with a serving dolly causing a servant to spill food on a guest's clothes. There was no way the servant could say that it was the princess's fault.

As Elphilia hides in the shadows of a hallway gloating...

“Did you do this?”

...A young boy's voice comes from behind her.

Elphilia is truly surprised. No one would ever scold her, not even her own parents. Maybe her behavior had drawn the ire of a devil or a death god.

Elphilia seriously feels that way and runs away from the place at once. However, in the rose garden in the front yard of the royal palace, her pursuer catches up to her. The two of them are alone in the maze of rose bushes. Even if Elphilia calls for help, no one would be close enough to hear her.

(...No, even if there were, nobody would want to help me.)

Elphilia wills herself to turn around and face her pursuer. What she sees is not a devil that had been chasing her, but a tall boy wearing the uniform of a knight. He has a fearless face and a solid body. Contrary to a prince out of a fairy tale, he is a boy with a realistic air.

Elphilia's whole body is filled with a sense of relief.

After all, this boy is not royalty or nobility... he's a kid who's only just become a knight. She may like the way he looks, but she is not one to be taken in by that. Rather, she believes that people who make a good first impression are usually more troublesome.

“You, don't you know who I am?”

“I do. But it doesn't matter if you're at fault.”

“I wonder what you’re talking about. I have no idea—”

Suddenly, Elphilia feels as if her body is sewn to the ground. In reality, he is holding both her shoulders... The young knight’s jet-black eyes seem to drink in the light as they stare straight at Elphilia and she sees her own frightened eyes reflected back at her.

(Wha-what’s wrong with me... I’m getting scared of a child just because he has a large body!)

Elphilia suppresses her fear and glares back at the tall boy. She is royalty, a princess, a person of status and power that no one can defy. In this place, she cannot allow herself to be beaten by someone of such low birth.

“I-I’ll say it clearly! I’ve done nothing wrong—”

Then something she couldn’t explain happened. Somehow Elphilia feels as if the young knight’s eyes are piercing sharply through her body. It is as if he can see right through her dress. It is as if he had stripped her of everything she was wearing and made her stand outside in the garden without a stitch of clothing on. She can even feel her skin, which had become hot and sweaty, cool down from being exposed to the chilly night air.

The young knight spoke.

“Don’t lie, Elphilia”

His words were decisive.

At that moment, a powerful impact comes up from the depths of Elphilia’s body. The impact runs from below her navel to the top of the head, and from there extends to the tips of both her hands and feet. The intensity is so strong that her knees begin to tremble as if they were cramping.

He had accused her of lying.

He even called her by her name without any honorific.

Someone she doesn't know is treating her like a child!

And yet, she doesn't feel like resisting. Elphilia is trying her best to endure the sweet numbness that has overtaken her entire body. She hugs herself tightly and tries to suppress the flood of strange sensations that are flowing from deep inside her body.

It is her first time feeling like this. The joy she felt at executing a successful prank was nothing compared to this. That feeling is just a short distraction. But the shock that is hitting her body right now, with no end in sight, continues to rise up through her young, 10-year-old body.

“Ah♥ nnn♥ nnnnnnhhg♥”

Finally, her limit is coming. Elphilia cannot take anymore and collapses on the spot. Her head feels foggy, and there is a tingling in the area below her belly button.



“Are you all right, Princess?”

The young knight's expression changes from grim to concerned. He quickly picks up Elphilia's tiny body and starts to run. In the meantime, she continues suffering a sweet numbness that she doesn't understand.

(Don't call me Princess like that, like I'm a stranger.....)

Elphilia buries her face in the young knight's chest.

(More, harshly scold me more...)

While running through the maze of the rose garden, the boy knight gives her an awkward smile.

“Don't worry. I'll take you to your family.”

“Nnaa♥ mmm♥ th-that's...Ahhnn♥”

Elphilia wants to tell him how she felt, but she just can't manage to get the words out. The educators and servants gather around and take over supporting Elphilia, who still can't stand up.

The young knight is also taken back to the knight captain who had accompanied him.

“Wait... nn...♥ please... because♥”

Elphilia tries desperately to speak to the young knight. She wants to admit her guilt and apologize. She wants to thank him for making her realize her mistake. She wants him to brusquely call out to her by her first name. She wants him to scold her more and more.

And yet... overcome by the sweet numbness, Elphilia cannot find the ability to express her feelings at all.

It was some time later that she found out that the young knight's name was Allen Brackish and that he was a genuine member of the Royal Order of

Knights.

Elphilia thought back to when Allen had accused her for her crime night after night since then.

(Just thinking about that man brings back that numb tingling from deep within my body. I'm not a princess..... I'm pathetic, ugly, and dirty... and I want him to scold me like that again for it!)

After a sad and frustrating night, Elphilia finally realized. She is neither perfect nor strong.

When someone does something wrong, they will be lectured, and when they do something bad, they will be scolded... Those basic principles had been lacking in her.

It is not status or power that is necessary for her to survive. It is role models in life that can support her in her immaturity. Thus, Elphilia was able to wake up.

She listened to the words of her educators, servants, and other adults in the royal court, and formed friendships with children of her own age. As she did so, she became aware of her status as a princess.

(I am unreliable and fragile, but I am alive because of the support of those close to me..... This country itself has supported me.)

She might have become more respectable than she was back then. But, still... she could never forget the pleasant feeling she had when Allen scolded her. She had never forgotten that young knight, not even for a single day since they first met.

That is why, when she learned that Allen had been involved in an accident during an expedition and was retiring from his life as a knight, she decided that it was the time to return the favor.

Even if there had not been a succession battle, Elphilia would have hired Allen as her bodyguard.

Just by having Allen at her side, the sweet numbness etched into her ten-year-old body revives.

Despite her anxiety about the succession battle, this time is the happiest in Elphilia's life.

Elphilia's tale of her childhood comes to an end.

She takes a sip of her tea and lets out a relieved sigh.

“So, what do you think?”

“Ye-yes... that was.....”

Rebecca, who had originally asked to hear the story from Elphilia, had been blushing completely during the last parts of it. Unable to look at Elphilia's face, she clutches the hem of her skirt and wriggles her thighs together.

Surprisingly, even Marie's face has turned bright red. She is always so care free about everything, but she is not used to being told those kinds of stories.

“The princess, how can I say..... She really likes Allen-sama, doesn't she?”

“He's the one who awakened me. Of course, I love him.”

Elphilia says this without embarrassment.

When Rebecca hears this, it almost looks like steam is coming out of her head.

“Uh, umm..... When you say 'love', do you mean.....”

“Hmmm, I wonder?”

Elphilia looks at Allen as she said this.

Allen gives his honest impression.

“I am honored that you remember it in such detail despite our brief encounter.”

It is only after seeing Elphilia again that he can recall the event, but his memory still cannot match the vividness of her story.

“I’m touched that you care so much about me. When I was left with permanent injuries in my legs, I almost gave in to despair. I didn’t even notice the kindness of the people around me. It was all thanks to Elphilia-sama that I was able to recover.”

“Nn...”

In response to his words, Elphilia’s face suddenly flushes. Allen can’t remember a time he had seen her become genuinely embarrassed like this. Her snow-white skin is tinged cherry red, and her blue eyes are moving impatiently, as if she is a girl who has realized that her crush loves her back. It was so innocent and cute that it almost makes Allen feel embarrassed as well.

(Damn it, I’m Elphilia-sama’s knight.....)

Falling in love with a woman’s beauty and delicateness is in keeping with chivalry, which has the creed of respecting women. But what Allen feels at this moment seems far removed from chivalry.

Cute... No, it is beyond adorable. He wants to hug her right here and tell her how he honestly feels. He knows it would be unforgivable, but he wants to give in to this instinct.

“Sob... Elphilia-sama’s story makes me cry no matter how many times I hear it.....”

Kurone is crying with a handkerchief in her hand before he knows it.

“Don’t cry, don’t cry.....”

Marie says with a gentle look.

Rebecca forces a laugh, “Ahaha...”.

The peaceful atmosphere returns, and the urge in Allen becomes quieter.

“Now, there are still some sweets left, and let’s have another cup of tea.”

Elphilia encourages them to resume teatime. Marie pours a cup of tea for the crying Kurone.

Then an unexpected visitor appeared.

“What’s this? There are already visitors.”

It was the first princess, Gabriella Virginia, who came to the rest area. Today as well, she is wearing a gold dress. She has a confident look as if to suggest she is the most powerful person present.

“Allen-dono, what a coincidence!”

Of course, Diana Laurent, a former Royal Knight, now Gabriella’s bodyguard, is with her. Her pale pink hair was blowing in the cool breeze of the lakeside.

The first princess was also planning to have teatime, and many maids are carrying her belongings.

“Nna-naa!!”

Gabriella suddenly utters a strange voice. Her eyes are fixed on Rebecca for some reason. Why does she, the first princess, care about a single schoolgirl?

(Is it about that? But it’s too obvious...)

Allen moves only his gaze to check Elphilia’s reaction. But she only smiles benignly. Elphilia is a bright girl, so it was impossible for her not to notice anything...

“That is my special seat. Move aside, Elphilia.”

Gabriella says something arrogant.

“I always enjoy my tea here every week at this time.”

“I see. I’m sorry, onee-sama.”

“If you understand, just pack your luggage and get lost.”

“I can’t do that.”

Elphilia flatly refuses. Of the whole party, Gabriella is probably the most surprised. Her mouth is open so far that she could swallow a fistful of cream puffs. It’s an expression no one expected to see on the face princess first in line to the throne...

Elphilia gives a brief explanation over her cup of tea.

“Unlike our princess palaces, which are our personal property, the facilities in the princess section belong to everyone who works here. And to use them, you need to make a reservation. Did you make a reservation, Gabriella-onee-sama?”

“I-I don’t need such a thing!”

Gabriella bares her teeth.

“In fact, I use it every week without a reservation!”

“That’s because other people were refraining from doing using it.”

“Ah... At least give word in advance!”

“Did you send the letter?”

“Eh!?”

Rebecca looks right at Diana.

“You’re the one that gave it to me...”

“Ah———”

Apparently, a thought had occurred to her. Gabriella turns red and clears her throat awkwardly.

“I’ll let this go for today.”

The atmosphere of the group becomes tense as everyone wonders what just occurred.

(Shouldn’t we say something here?)

Allen thinks so and is about to sit up when...

“Since you’re already here, why don’t you join us today onee-sama?”

...Elphilia makes an unexpected suggestion. Allen is impressed by how open-minded she is acting.

“That’s a good idea! Let’s do it, Gabriella-sama!”

Diana begins to get excited without heeding her mistress. Allen thinks that the innocence that remains in her ladylike aura is charming.

“I-I wanted to ask you something, Allen-dono!”

“M-me?”

Just a little while ago Allen had been asked to dig up stories about his time in the Royal Order.

Diana leans forward, putting her hands on the table and asks...

“Is it true that you like the ‘The Princess’s Secret’ series?”

“Eeh?”

Allen is taken aback. When he knew her in the Royal Order, Diana’s only interests were physical exercise and eating delicious food, and he had never

heard of her reading romance novels.

“I read it. I borrowed it from Elphilia-sama.”

“Really?”

“The characters are written in an appealing way so that even I, a male, can enjoy it. I’m not that crazy about the romance elements, but... You’re reading it, too, Diana?”

“N-no! I can’t read something that extreme even if I wanted to!”

“Well, you’re probably right...”

Diana is definitely more naive about these matters than Allen is. She isn’t judgmental of romantic relationships, but when it comes to herself, she seems to be averse. Even when she was a member of the Royal Order of Knights, she turned down every invitation for a relationship or engagement.

“Well, should I at least give you a summary?”

“Umm... I’d like to know, but I don’t think I want to know... Uwah!?”

Diana makes a distressed face as Gabriella grabs her around her waist... or rather, her ass.

Diana seems to have completely forgotten that she had been neglecting her mistress. Gabriella’s cheeks puff out like a child.

“Diana, let’s go back now!”

“Aren’t you going to join us for teatime?”

“Of course not, you idiot!”

Gabriella glares at Elphilia with her emerald eyes.

“Remember, older sisters don’t receive pity from younger sisters!”

After saying this, she leaves with Diana and her many maids in tow. Elphilia looks dejected as she sees them off.

“I wonder if I hurt my sister’s pride...”

“I’m the eldest son myself, so I understand not wanting to lose to my younger siblings.”

Allen puts his own hand over her small one in an effort to comfort her.

“But it’s something you have to get over. You can keep trying to be better than your younger siblings, or you can learn what you’re good at and what you’re not good at and figure out how to live your life... You have to decide for yourself. There were plenty of juniors in the knights who were better than me.”

“Have you ever felt the pressure of being chased?”

“Of course. Diana is a good example.”

During their time together in the Royal Order, Allen and Diana were evenly matched in fighting ability. Now that he has sequelae in both legs, it would be difficult for him to best her in a fair fight.

“Nnya——!!”

Suddenly, Marie raises a cat-like shout.

“Princess, Allen-sama, let’s eat sweets! And drink tea!”

“That’s right! We still have time!”

Rebecca nods in agreement.

“I’ll serve it to you!”

Kurone picks up a pair of tongs and begins to choose sweets from the tea stand. Thanks to them, the atmosphere of the fun tea party is restored.

“Yes, we still haven’t talked enough.”

Elphilia also smiles, and Allen pats his chest in relief. The good times are likely to continue for some time to come.

“Hey, Allen.”

Just as Allen was thinking that, Elphilia whispers in his ear.

“Please come to the interrogation room after dinner.”

After dinner, Allen heads to the interrogation room as he was told.

He has not heard of any new enemy agents being captured. But the only reason he would be called to the dungeon is for an interrogation. Otherwise Elphilia’s room, which is protected by warding magic, is the best place to meet.

(Then, what in the world does she have planned?)

Allen pushes open the bars of the interrogation room with that question in his mind. Elphilia is waiting in the middle of the interrogation room, sitting on a chair she brought in. She has not changed into her indoor clothes, but is still wearing the long dress she wore when they went out. Kurone also accompanies her, but she leaves the room as soon as Allen enters. He guesses she will be keeping watch outside the interrogation room.

“Sorry to keep you waiting, Elphilia-sama.”

“I’ll keep this quick, Allen. Let’s get into the main subject right away.”

Elphilia crosses her legs in her chair.

“I’ve made plans for the end of the week. I’m going to pay a visit to a village to survey recent damage caused by a monster attack.”

“What... That’s too dangerous!”

Even in the princess palace, which is supposed to be safe, assassins can be sent to attack her.

“Going out at such a time is like asking your enemies to attack. You should immediately convince the King to cancel your official duties!”

“This survey, you see... It was my idea.”

“Elphilia-sama’s idea!?”

She must understand the threat of the assassin better than anyone else. Elphilia begins to explain to the baffled Allen.

“I receive reports of every village that has been attacked by bandits or monsters. I really want to visit all the villages and give them encouragement, but it is difficult for me to go away for a whole day... But we finally set a date for a consolation visit.”

“But why do you need to go that far...”

After asking that, Allen suddenly remembers something obvious, something Elphilia had said at the tea party. When she learned that she could not survive by herself and she first became aware of herself as a princess. Elphilia Virginia is by no means an ordinary girl who only needs to think about her own future.

“If someone is going to put themselves in danger, it should be me, the second in line to the throne.”

At least Gabriella, the first in line to the throne, has to be kept safe. Allen understands what she wants to say.

“Your life may be in danger this time, and the mastermind behind all of this might be——”

“Allen!”

Elphilia shakes her head as if to say, “Don’t say anymore”. She has faith that the mastermind will change their mind and never send agents again...

“I suppose we won’t see eye to eye on this.”

Allen exhales a big sigh and then looks at Elphilia’s face. He is her bodyguard and she is his employer. She could have simply told him, “I’m going, so escort me”. Since she listened to him this far, she must have her own reasons.

“Then, let’s do it this way.”

Elphilia suddenly offers a proposal.

“Allen, interrogate me.”

“...Is that why we came here?”

“The time limit is the sound of the bell at midnight. If you can make me surrender by then, I’ll give up on the survey quietly. But if you can’t manage that... then you will be my escort during the consolation visit.”

“Okay, let’s do it.”

Allen checks the clock hanging on the wall of the interrogation room. Only three hours remain until midnight. It’s not a short time, but when it comes to interrogations, every second is precious.

“Fufu... That’s the way it should be♥”

Elphilia licks her glossy lips. She turns her back to Allen and puts her hands on the back of the chair she was sitting in. She thrusts her hips out causing the shape of her buttocks to show clearly through the long skirt of her dress.

“Come on, spank me to your heart’s content♥”

With a seemingly practiced technique, Elphilia tugs up the hem of her skirt.

Her exposed, meaty ass is already glistening with sweat in the light of the dim chamber. Her ass is not just a beautiful full moon. It is an enchanting moon that tempts all who behold it, a forbidden fruit dripping with sweet nectar.

The underwear she is wearing is nothing short of indecent. Elphilia's white, soft butt is tightly squeezed by a contrasting jet-black, lace fabric. When Allen thinks about her wearing such a thing in the daytime and enjoying the tea party without a care in the world, forgetting that she is the princess of a country, he wants to question her sanity.

"The Grim Reaper's Eyes", Allen's power to identify weaknesses, has been reacting to the bare parts Elphilia's butt for some time. It seems that instead of getting used to spanking after experiencing it once, she has actually become more sensitive to it. She must be feeling a great deal of stimulation just by exposing her rear end to the open air like this.

"Allen, what's wrong? You're running out of time."

"Elphilia-sama, I won't spank you."

"Huh?"

Elphilia is at a loss. Allen does not move from his spot and just keeps looking at her.

"That's right, I won't talk down to you or bully you either. However, if you call off the survey, I'll be happy to spank you, degrade you, and torment you."

"Th-That's—"

Elphilia's face turns pale in despair.

This game was advantageous to her from the beginning. Whether she gives in or not, she would be scolded for the first time in a while. Isn't it unbecoming of royalty to try to satisfy one's own needs using a consolation visit as an excuse?

(...There, that should throw her off her game.)

Interrogating Elphilia in the normal way will only end up making her happy. Her motivation to endure interrogation is also quite high. In that case, by threatening to not interrogate her, it will completely break her will.

“You... aren’t going to torture me...?”

From this point on, he decides to not even answer Elphilia’s questions anymore. Allen remains silent and just continues to watch her.

“Guh... mmmn.....”

Elphilia lets out a groan as her she realizes her plans have been completely crushed.

“I... I order you! Spank me now!”

“.....”

Allen ignores her command. Realizing that he will not communicate with her, Elphilia starts shaking her ass from side to side. She probably thinks she is taunting him with that. Perhaps she wants him to tell her how vulgar she is acting, how unbecoming of a princess.

But he had already decided not to respond to any of her provocations, so Elphilia simply repeats the ludicrous motion all by herself.

After a while, she stops shaking her ass at him. The position with her hips thrust out creates a significant strain on her muscles, even if she had not been moving. Sweat is running down her cheeks and soaking through her tight underwear and silk stockings.

After an hour has passed, Elphilia finally falls onto the floor on her butt. Then she manages to scramble back up to sit down on the chair. Her thighs and calves seem to be unsteady, and she sloppily leaves her legs open.

“Hah, haah..... How much longer?”

Elphilia looks over at the clock. Allen immediately shifts to stand in the way of her gaze.

“Wa-wait! At least show me the time——”

Then, a black cloth is wrapped around Elphilia's eyes. The blindfold completely blocks her view. If she has to remove the blindfold from herself here, it would be clear that she can't stand Allen's interrogation.

"Allen! You're there, right?"

"....."

Allen holds his breath. When he has to move, he does so without making audible footsteps.

Elphilia's body is becoming even more impatient now that her sight has been blocked out. Even the rustling of her own clothing feels tantalizing to her now. Of course, that level of stimulation is nothing compared to a spanking.

"Nnn♥ kuh, nnnnnnm♥"

Elphilia twists her body in distress. She can't touch herself, just as she can't remove the blindfold by herself.

He does not bother restrain her hands, instead leaving her in a position where she can give up at any time. This is part of Allen's strategy to sway Elphilia.

(Come on, say it! Tell me you'll give up the survey and beg me to spank you!)

However, things take an unexpected turn. Two hours have passed since he had started Elphilia's interrogation.

Just as time seems to take longer when bored, each hour should feel two or three times as long as she is blinded and unable to converse with Allen. Prolonged sensory deprivation increases her anxiety...



However, it is Allen who finds himself getting impatient in this situation. Perhaps he has underestimated the person that Elphilia Virginia is. She has a bad habit of wanting to be disciplined, so he was convinced that she would never be able to resist that impulse.

“Allen... Allen... Mnn♥ Haa... Allennn♥”

Elphilia’s mind and body are definitely being stirred violently. She is like a dog trying to keep patient with a juicy steak hanging in front of it. The sweat that drips from all over her body is like drool.

Whenever she unconsciously moves to touch her sensitive body, she somehow manages to grab her own hand and pull it back, biting her lip in distress to endure her salacious hunger.

Elphilia is nobly fighting her instincts. Allen has no doubt that her resolve is firm. Then what is the point in continuing to inflict more pain on her? Once he has this question in mind, his decision comes quickly.

“It’s my loss.”

Allen promptly removed the black cloth from around Elphilia’s eyes, which has also become soaked with her sweat. Elphilia squints and slowly lets her eyes adjust to the brightness of the room.

“It looks like there’s still an hour left...”

“My determination broke first. Please let me escort you during the village survey.”

“Yes... I’m glad you understand.”

Elphilia’s face relaxes with happiness. Allen kneels before her. Doing so reminds him of when he was first appointed as a high-ranking interrogator.

“I’ll need you and Kurone to escort me during the trip. And... could you help me take off my dress? The fabric is sticking to me because of the

sweat. It feels uncomfortable like this.....”

“Yes, ma’am!”

Allen begins taking off Elphilia’s long dress with awkward hands. Not being familiar with women’s clothing, he makes a few mistakes during the process, but somehow manages to get it off.

“Fufu... I never thought I’d have a man undress me.”

Elphilia hugs her ample bosom in a showy way. Her black brassiere, which had absorbed a lot of sweat, shows a faint hint of a pink tip. Her body radiates a mellow fragrance, almost like a fruity wine. Allen cannot help but look away in embarrassment, but the smell and even presence of Elphilia still tantalizes his senses.

“This time, well, since it was urgent.....”

Allen made the decision when he was still in work mode. He realizes now he should have called Kurone in to assist her instead.

“By the way, there’s still an hour left until midnight.”

Elphilia places her hands on the back of the chair and sticks out her hips again, this time without the long fabric of the dress getting in the way. Her soft cheeks are pulled taut, even though she must be exhausted.

“Now, let’s continue the interrogation.”

“Eh?”

“No way, you’re not planning to go that far and leave me on edge, are you?”

Allen cannot keep in his laughter when Elphilia asks him that. After all, it seems he is no match for her.

“Then, I’ll go all out until the bell sounds.”

Allen switches his mind back to work mode.

“Elphilia...”

“Ye-yes♥?”

“Do not miss a single second of the next hour.”

“Hah... yes...♥”

Elphilia seems to be unable to suppress her tingling anticipation.

Allen puts his full strength into a slap across her ass.

Chapter 5 - The Female Knight Likes It Hot

On the morning of the consolation visit, the front courtyard of the royal palace is blanketed in a morning mist. It is almost dawn, and the sun is gradually beginning to brighten the eastern sky.

Allen, Elphilia, and Kurone are waiting patiently on the final preparations for their departure. Since the second princess herself is traveling, in addition to the servants who will take care of her personal needs, the Royal Order of Knights are also dispatching a unit to guard the retinue. However, the escort was kept to a minimum at Elphilia's request, with only a single ten-man squad.

The march will be a hard one. The time spent traveling will be far longer than the time spent in the village. Despite such hardship, Elphilia is trying to do what she can to encourage her country that has been hurting from monster attacks.

(I can't be outdone by Elphilia-sama's enthusiasm!)

Allen is in especially high spirits.

"I see you are finally setting out, Elphilia."

Gabriella arrives in the courtyard of the palace, accompanied by several female bodyguards. Unusually, Diana is not with her today.

"Did you come to see me off, Gabriella-onee-sama?"

"My darling little sister is going off to fulfill her duty. Of course I would come to wish her success."

Gabriella snickers proudly. She is looking down her nose at Elphilia as usual, but it seems that she is not here to pick a fight today. Gabriella looks around at the retinue.

“Hmmm... There aren’t many soldiers, are there?”

“The Royal Order is quite busy, and I have Allen and Kurone here to protect me.”

Elphilia looks to her two bodyguards. Kurone straightens her back and put her right hand on her chest.

“I will protect Elphilia-sama, even at the cost of my own life.”

“I swear that I will protect Elphilia-sama, too.”

Allen is carrying a longsword at his waist and wearing brand new, metal armor. Elphilia had this armor made specifically for today.

“Well, that’s reassuring.”

Gabriella has a big smile on her face.

At that time, one of the servants calls out to report that the preparations are complete. Once Allen and the others climb into the carriages, the whole retinue departs from the royal palace.

“Please do your best. I hope everything goes well.”

Gabriella chuckles as she sees them off. As the carriages drive away from the royal palace, she relaxes and lets out a big yawn.

The journey proceeded smoothly, and the group of wagons arrived at the village at the scheduled time.

It is a small village with a population of only about one hundred people, located near a large river. The entire village had been forced to evacuate due to the monster attack, but the Royal Knights had exterminated the monsters and the villagers were finally able to return after three months.

The carriages stop outside the village, and everyone steps out on the ground for the first time since they had broken camp several hours earlier.

What first catches the eyes of Elphilia's retinue are the people who are trying their best to restore the village. The current state of the village can only be said to be terrible. Most of the houses have collapsed and the crops in the fields have been devoured. Still, the villagers are rebuilding their houses, plowing their ruined fields, and somehow trying to get back to their normal way of life.

"Welcome, welcome honored guests."

When Allen and his group head to the entrance of the village, they are met there by an elderly man. Apparently, he is the village head of this village.

"I can't believe the princess came all this way... Uhuhu..."

The village head suddenly bursts into tears in front of Elphilia.

Elphilia grabs hold of the village head's hand.

"If there's anything I can do to help, please tell me."

"If so, please show your face to the villagers. I'll gather everyone now!"

"No, don't go to the trouble. I will go around to meet everyone instead."

"W-well, allow me to guide you then!"

Thus, they all go on a tour of the village, guided by the village chief. It would be unforgivable to call all the villagers together and have them stop the restoration work. Allen understands Elphilia's concern for the villagers.

When they arrive at a site where houses are being rebuilt, the villagers immediately gather around.

"She's come to such a remote place!"

"It's always been my dream to meet the princess."

“We can’t offer you much hospitality... but please look around the village.”

Elphilia talks with each and every one of the villagers. Whether they are tilling a field, building a house, or cooking a meal, she makes an effort to greet with them and offer words of encouragement and kindness.

Later, around noon, Elphilia prepares lunch with the villagers. Bread baked in the oven, soup with dried meat and a few vegetables, and preserved food that had been loaded on the carriages... This was the best that could be prepared in the recovering village, but it was surprisingly tasty.

Allen finishes his meal before the others and walks around the plaza in the middle of the village. Elphilia is eating with the village children. She is very popular, even with the toddlers.

“Everyone is doing their best.”

The tearful village chief says full of emotion.

“There aren’t enough houses for each family, food is limited, and everyone from children to the elderly have to work... but I’m glad they were able to come back to this village. This is all thanks to you knights who got rid of the monsters.”

The village head apparently misunderstands that Allen is also a member of the Royal Order. He dares not to deny the old man’s feelings and gratefully accepts them.

“It is the duty of the Royal Knights to protect the people.”

“Please knight, keep the princess safe as well.”

The strength of his wish could be seen in the village head’s eyes as he looks up at Allen. It is hard to believe that he is such an elderly man, for he has an intensity that would never be outdone by a young man.

“Surely the princess will... No, she will definitely carry the Kingdom of Virginia on her shoulders. I have lived a not so short life, but I have never

met such a kind person as the princess. When I look at the princess... I believe that this country will become a happier place.”

“Leave it to us. We will absolutely protect the princess.”

Allen looks the village head straight in the eye and answers. He knows that Elphilia does not enjoy the succession battle and is not interested in the throne. If nothing happens, it will be her sister Gabriella who will inherit the throne. And Elphilia also wants Gabriella to take over the throne.

(But, I also think Elphilia-sama would be the best.....)

Allen shakes off his unnecessary thoughts. This is not what a guard should be thinking about.

After lunch, Elphilia resumes her rounds of the village. In spite of the long distance traveled and all the walking she had done today, she does not look tired at all. She is energetic, picking herbs with the children and even making soap, a specialty of hers.

After tirelessly continuing to mingle with the villagers, Elphilia finally catches her breath just before sunset, when she has to start preparing for the return trip. The servants and knights begin reloading the carriages.

Meanwhile, Allen, Elphilia, and Kurone decide to take a break by a large river nearby the village. The reflection of the setting sun on the surface of the river is so beautiful that they could almost sigh.

In fact, Allen wants to sigh. This consolation visit was peaceful from beginning to end, though still exhausting for him. On the other hand, Elphilia may have been the most energetic of all today, including the squires and knights.

“Elphilia-sama, thank you for your hard work today.”

Kurone fawns over her mistress. Elphilia giggles reminiscently.

“Kurone, you’ve been working a lot too. It must have been hard for you to have to babysit.”

Kurone, who was the only maid in the village, was forced to take care of the babies of all the wives in the village. However, the babies were afraid of Kurone and would always start crying when she carried them.

“Babysitting isn’t my specialty...”

Kurone’s shoulders slump dejectedly. It seems that she is quite shocked that the babies never warmed up to her.

“Maybe the baby knew that you were concealing weapons. Little kids are sensitive to those kinds of things.”

“...I hope that’s it.”

Kurone’s face regains a little cheer as Elphilia comforts her. Looking at them like this, it seems as if Elphilia is the older one. Kurone, who is usually so dignified, actually has a lot of girlish features.

Allen takes advantage of the moment and asks a question as casually as possible.

“How do you think the consolation visit went, Elphilia-sama?”

He is reminded of the words of the village head. There are people who want Elphilia to succeed to the throne. She is wise, so she must have understood the villagers’ feelings even if they did not speak them aloud.

“I’m really glad I came. We were able to make them so happy.”

Elphilia steps along the riverbank looking really happy. Her smile is like that of a schoolgirl at a festival, so innocent that it is hard to believe that she bears such a large part of the kingdom’s burdens.

“And... I have a new understanding of what the country should do.”

“What the country should do...”

“All the people who have been victims of monsters and bandits... Seeing the reality with my own eyes has made me keenly aware of how important

it is to support them. I intend to report this to my father as soon as I return to the palace. But... I don't think it will be easy to solve this problem right away."

Allen understands what Elphilia wants to say. The king is strengthening the Royal Order and local militia groups to combat the threats to the country. However, there is no amount of budget or manpower that would be sufficient to completely guarantee the safety of every citizen.

"The Kingdom of Virginia is by no means a poor country, but it is also not rich enough to protect all the people. To enrich the whole country... it will be a very gradual process and is not something that could be easily accomplished by my father's generation alone."

"That means..."

If she were to succeed to the throne, would that mean it would be her mission? Elphilia replies as if she had heard Allen's thoughts.

"I don't intend to take the throne. But today's visit changed my mind a little. If the people want me, and if the right to the throne were to come into my hands..... at that time, I think I'll be ready to become queen."

Her profile is more composed than ever as she speaks of the possible future. Allen cannot help but kneel on the spot.

"Then I, Allen Brackish... I will serve Elphilia-sama for the rest of my life!"

"...haa♥"

Elphilia takes a step back. When he looks up to see what is wrong, she is red in the face and shaking nervously. She is shyly covering her mouth with her hand and avoiding eye contact with him.

"Perhaps... does that trouble you?"

Allen cannot help but feel uneasy asking. When he thinks about it, he is actually in a very delicate position. The injuries to both his legs prevents

him from fully fulfilling his duties as a bodyguard. If Elphilia succeeds to the throne... No, regardless of how, once the succession battle comes to an end, his secret appointment of high-ranking interrogator will no longer be necessary.

(If that happens, I won't be qualified to serve Elphilia-sama.....)

As Allen ponders this...

“You say some very mean things sometimes.”

...He hears an unexpected response from Elphilia.

“To hear that someone like Allen... who is kind, dependable, and willing to harshly scolds me, will serve me for the rest of my life♥... Of course I'm happy to hear that♥”

Perhaps trying to calm her mind, Elphilia hugs herself tightly. Her breath is hot and her lips are glossy and wet. Her blue eyes are moist with greed and desire.

“I can't believe you're making me say all this... nmm♥ I'm not even being interrogated♥”

“I... I'm sorry...”

“Why are you apologizing in this situation? You should be happy for me♥”

“I will serve you gladly!”

Apparently, she values his abilities more than he thought. Allen obediently accepts her opinion and decides to be more confident. Meanwhile, Kurone is wiping her tears with a handkerchief.

“Elphilia-sama... You've really grown into a fine woman!”

“Kurone, I'm so sorry I made you worry.”

Elphilia's expression drops the hint of sexiness and returns to her usual gentle and collected self.

Then she steps up to Allen and starts to explain.

“Kurone and I met six years ago... shortly after I met you. I was just starting to get up to speed at the time, and she became my maid, my bodyguard, and... my best friend, too.”

“Elphilia-samaaa!”

Kurone's eyes are welling up again, even though she had just stopped crying.

Having watched Elphilia's desperate attempt to grow out of her previous brattiness, and having witnessed her gain the strength to actually contribute to the country as a member of the royal family, one can only imagine how moved she must be.

“I'm... already... so happy... so happy... Haah!”

Kurone suddenly stops crying and turns around. At the same time, around ten figures jump out from the shade of a grove of trees spreading out along the riverside. Allen quickly draws the longsword from his waist and holds it at the ready.

The unidentified assailants who suddenly appeared hide their faces with iron masks and balaclavas, and wear breastplates and gauntlets over their black clothes. Swords, spears, axes... Armed with a variety of weapons, they approach the trio fiercely.

An ambush when they were relaxed and ready to return home, and at a time when the knights are away from the princess.

(So they have been waiting for this moment all along!)

A few seconds after the appearance of the assailants, the knights rush out from the village. From there it becomes a fierce melee.

“Allen-sama, please protect Elphilia-sama!”

Kurone takes out two large knives from beneath her maid uniform. Then she engages two of the assailants at once.

“Elphilia-sama, get behind me!”

“Y-yes...”

Allen stands in front of Elphilia with his back to the river. Allen understands that there is nowhere for the two of them to retreat to. It is the perfect location for the ambush.

“If you move, they will target you. I’ll protect you, so don’t leave me!”

“R-right, I understand... Allen, I’ll leave it to you.”

Elphilia calms down and responds. Suddenly, an iron-masked assailant approaches in front of them. Like Allen, he is wielding a longsword, and unlike the other assailants, he wears fine metal armor. The two face each other at a distance of about five meters... at a distance where they can slash at each other in an instant.

“Wha... that stance is?”

Allen is astonished. The reason is that his stance and that of his attacker are identical, like mirror images. That is to say, the other party uses the style of swordsmanship taught by the Royal Order of Knights. The assailant is a former member of the Order... No, possibly a current member of the Order. If the assailant knows about Allen’s leg injury and prolongs the fight to wear him down, Allen will be at a huge disadvantage.

“Bastard! Who are you?”

“.....”

The assailant silently slashes at him. After exchanging sword blows several times, Allen understands that his opponent is quite skilled. Despite looking like an assassin, he has a surprisingly straightforward sword style.

(But my own skill hasn't dulled...)

Allen raises his longsword and flips off the iron mask worn by the assailant.

Instantly, the assailant let out a girlish scream, "Kya!?"

You're the one who's—" Allen's eyes widen.

"You-you're——"

Allen's eyes go wide with surprise.

Her pale, pink hair is disheveled, and her soft eyes are filled with kindness. The face that appears from under the iron mask is that of the female knight he had fought with side by side.

"Diana....."

"Allen-dono, please hand Elphilia-sama over to me."

Diana does not retreat a single step, and continues to emit a hostile aura.

"No way, I didn't expect you to come yourself... Is your goal to eliminate Elphilia-sama as a potential heir?"

"I can't answer that question."

"Diana, please give up on this. You're too innocent to do this kind of dirty work."

The Diana that Allen knows would never bring herself to cut down an old comrade, no matter what her purpose. Even Allen doesn't want to have to kill Diana, but he is at least prepared to die as a shield for Elphilia.

"Kuu..."

Diana flinches for a moment, perhaps realizing the difference in their resolution. Allen does not miss that opportunity and immediately strikes

Diana's longsword, sending it flying out of her grasp where it pierces into the ground of the riverside.

Diana shouts to the rest of the assailants.

“The operation's failed! Retreat! Retreat!”

The assailants are shaken. All the voices that can be heard are of young women.

“Diana-sama, we're here to help you!”

“Don't worry about me! Not a single one of you can be caught!”

Diana shouts her orders and the assailants begin fleeing at once. Even after moving on from the Royal Order to her new role, she seems to be well loved by her new subordinates.

Allen calls to the knights who were starting to give chase.

“I've caught their leader! There's no need to go any further!”

After confirming that her subordinates have escaped, Diana kneels down and surrenders. Her face has gone alarmingly pale and both shoulders are shaking as if she is frozen.

“I am sorry, Elphilia-sama... For this disrespect...”

“Diana, raise your face.”

Elphilia steps up to Diana with a compassionate look.

(Is this gentle face for the person who tried to attack you...)

As usual, Elphilia's capacity for mercy is impressive. Allen, believing in the two girls, decides to wait and see how things will turn out.

“I want to put an end to this unnecessary succession battle.”

Elphilia touches Diana's shoulder and squeezed her trembling hand.

"To do so, I need to get the name of the mastermind from you. But I want you to rest assured. I won't let any harm come to your body or heart when you're interrogated. Nor will I take your life after I get the information out of you... I promise you that."

Diana bites her lip as if she is about to cry when she hears this. Allen hopes this is enough to make her talk...

After making sure the conversation is over, Kurone restrains Diana with a rope. Elphilia huffs a light sigh.

"Well... It looks like we're going to be busy even after we get home."

"Let's see what a high-ranking interrogator can do."

Allen proclaims this in front of her, as a way of encourage himself. The one he will be interrogating is the first princess's bodyguard, and an active member of the Royal Order of Knights. They cannot be allowed to commit evil acts, so their loyalty and patience are far greater than the average human being. Physically and mentally, their endurance is astounding.

(I'll make sure to get the identity of the mastermind from you.)

Allen shoots Diana a look that is filled with more determination than ever.

By the time they returned to the princess's palace, the moon was large in the sky. Only Allen, Elphilia, and Kurone knew that Diana had been brought to the interrogation room. After taking her into custody, they immediately hid her face, so even the members of the Royal Order who had escorted them were not aware of her identity.

Allen first asked her direct questions, but again, Diana refused to give up any information. She insisted that there was no mastermind behind the plot and that she was the leader.

(In that case, I have no choice but to interrogate her...)

Allen takes a close look at Diana's whole body. Diana is standing in the center of the interrogation room with her hands suspended above her by shackles. She is still wearing her metal armor, as she had not been allowed to change her clothes since her capture.

It was easy for Allen to determine when she was lying during the initial questioning. However, on the other hand, he could not see any weaknesses at all. Her weaknesses did not seem to be hidden by magical makeup like during Rebecca's interrogation.

She must be agitated. As evidence, Diana is sweating profusely, and her long, pale pink hair has become damp. Yet she shows no hints of weakness, probably because of her well trained mental strength.

"I never thought I would be interrogated by Allen-dono."

"I didn't expect to be interrogating you either."

Allen asks one thing before getting starting.

"Can you not just be honest with me? It's not in your best interest to keep silent."

"...That's no good. It's not an option for me."

"When you tried to kidnap Elphilia-sama, you didn't take the villagers hostage. I didn't take them hostage. When you fought me, you didn't go after my legs even though you would have had an advantage. You still have your chivalry, right? You do realize what you're doing is wrong, don't you?"

Diana gives no answer.

Allen calls out to Elphilia, who is again acting as his assistant this time.

"Elphilia, help me remove her armor."

"Yes♥ Understood, sir♥"

After returning to the royal palace and heading straight to the interrogation room, Elphilia took off the dress she had been wearing for the consolation visit, and now is stripped down to just her underwear. Interrogation is a job that can get dirty, but nevertheless, it's an amazingly bold move every time.

Allen and Elphilia work together to begin removing Diana's metal armor.

Pauldrons, gauntlets, greaves... each of the pieces weighs a hefty amount.

When Allen removes the last piece, the breastplate...

"Nnn... hah..."

...The smell of thick sweat rises from Diana's body. She is wearing snug-fitting, black body tights underneath. She probably chose innerwear that would not rub against the metal armor and would be easy to move around in, but it seems it became stuffy from the intense fighting and long distances she had to travel.

"Allen-dono... umm, do I, smell like sweat..."

Allen dares not answer Diana's anxious question. However, thinking about it, he does not feel it is a bad smell. It is rich but refreshing, like the smell after a workout. It is the natural body odor of a girl without perfume... and it smells nostalgic and calming to Allen.

He throws away the feeling that this girl is his cute junior.

(Still... Diana has the kind of body men easily fall in love with)

Her entire body is well toned, and her thin body tights clearly show off her shapely curves. A large, nicely rounded, upward bust. A tight waist. A nice ass that makes men feel at ease when they look at it... Strong, gentle, and somewhat girly, Diana's body is like the physical manifestation of her personality.



He was not aware of it at all when they were Royal Knights, but looking at her again like this, he realizes his male instincts are beginning to stir. From now on, aware of her womanly charms... it may be difficult to treat her as a mere junior. Allen had thought to take off her body tights, but apparently she had nothing on underneath them. He now hesitates to strip her completely naked, even for the sake of the interrogation.

(Well, for now, let's try to throw her off balance...)

Even if her weaknesses are not apparently immediately, there are some that can be noticed during the interrogation. That was what he noticed when he interrogated Rebecca.

Allen approaches Diana and tickles her side with his fingertips.

“Ahnn, huu... Allen-dono, that tickles...”

Diana grins like a kid, but holds in her laughter. Despite being ticklish, she is able to maintain her composure well.

(How about here, then?)

Allen lightly brushes his fingernails up Diana's inner thigh.

Immediately...

“N-no, not there!”

...Diana's knees Allen sharply in the solar plexus. Allen's body is lifted into the air. Elphilia is concerned and supports him as he stumbles backward.

“Are you okay, Allen!?”

“Ah, aah... I'm fine. I can handle one shot.”

In truth, he really wants to sit down after that, but he cannot let Diana see him in a state of weakness during the interrogation.

“Sorry...I’m so sorry, Allen-dono! But I think Allen-dono was at fault. You suddenly touched such a naughty place. Touching that place only tickles, so if you’re going to touch me, do it somewhere else!”

(I wonder, this atmosphere is...)

Whether it was Elphilia, Marie, or Rebecca, when the interrogation began, it created an immoral atmosphere. Diana’s interrogation, however, has none of that, but rather a healthy and wholesome feeling that makes Allen feel apologetic.

Allen moves behind Diana...

“Wh-What now.....?”

... And delivers a powerful slap to her helpless buttocks.

“Hyah!?”

A rather loud sound echoes through the interrogation room, as if a whip cracking against the cobblestones. Her ass has a beautiful tightness that literally resonated when hit.

For Allen, it was a heart-wrenching act, but...

“That was a good hit, Allen-dono! Come on, another one!”

Diana’s eyes sparkle and she rather urges him on herself. Allen complies with the request and delivers an additional series of slaps to her backside.

“Nnn... augh... kuh! It’s working pretty well!”

Is this really doing anything to her?

“Haau... kuhmm! More, more! Come on, give me another hit!”

He continues hitting her until his arm starts to feel dull and sluggish. It should hurt. As evidence, Diana’s bottom... The fabric of her body tights

has become so thin that the reddish skin of her ass shows through. If it were Elphilia, this level of abuse would definitely break her.

Allen stops the spanking. The palm of his right hand is tingling.

“Phew... this reminds me of when we were in the Royal Order.”

Diana stares into the distance with her twinkling eyes.

“Allen-dono and I were both practicing so hard with wooden swords that we had bruises. It would normally hurt to be hit by an opponent, but instead it felt rather pleasant. Allen-dono’s spanking on my butt felt good, too.”

Allen feels a sense of danger and gulps hard.

(It’s useless..... Any interrogation method I’d have the heart for would be nothing compared to the special training she’s used to!)

While Allen tries to come up with a plan, Diana makes a suggestion.

“Where are you going to hit next, Allen-dono? I recommend the stomach. I do sit ups to train my abdominal muscles. And even though it was an accidental reflex, I did put a knee kick in Allen’s gut... A stomach punch, let me have a stomach punch!”

Diana proudly sticks out her belly. She says she has been training, but it doesn’t look like her abdomen is particularly muscular. Rather, she has a slim belly reminiscent of a sculpture, with a single vertical line. There was a hint of sex appeal in the appearance of the dimple where her belly button sits beneath the body tights.

It is indeed a beautiful body that just begs to be abused, but...

“I would never hit you in the belly.”

...Allen rejects the idea flatly.

“Why not?”

“This isn’t about the interrogation. You’re a woman, aren’t you?”

“Well, yes, but...”

Diana turns her small neck to be able to look at him, not quite sure what he means.

Allen says in an admonishing tone...

“You might marry and have children someday.”

“Ehh!?”

Diana’s eyes widen in surprise. The reaction is like a child learning where babies come from for the first time. Her face flushes red in an instant.

“Th-that’s... I’m not really thinking that far into the future...”

“You’ve heard about arranged marriages, right? Maybe some of your friends are already getting married or raising kids?”

“I-I-I’ve heard about that kind of thing, but I haven’t gotten such a request...”

Allen is not sure what to make of Diana’s attitude. She is twenty years old this year. Is it normal to be this upset over topics of romance? Shouldn’t she be more embarrassed being stripped down to her underwear in front of a man and spanked on the ass?

Thinking back on when they worked together in the Royal Order, he never heard any stories about Diana’s love life. At the time, he assumed she was just sparing the feelings of her friends in the male-dominated organization... but when he thinks about it again, he doubts Diana is actually capable of that level of tact.

And when he considers her words at the tea party...

(Perhaps... this could be a way to reveal Diana’s weakness.)

Thinking it is worth a try, Allen begins taking off his jacket.

“Whahh... Allen-dono, what are you doing?”

Diana quickly turns her gaze away, but she is still stealing sideways glances at him.

“I wonder if you want me to strip too?”

Elphilia puts her thumbs through the sides of her underwear.

“No, leave this to me.”

Unlike when he interrogated Marie and Rebecca, she won't be of any help here.

Allen completely undresses his upper half and checks his appearance in the full length mirror hanging on the wall of the interrogation room. Allen's body is drenched in sweat from the vigorous spanking he had given Diana. The dim lighting in the interrogation room casts deep shadows across the lines of his well-trained body.

“Nnn♥... wha... umm...♥ you're suddenly getting naked♥”

Elphilia, who should just be watching, cannot help but twist her body. She licks her lips as one might at a high-class steak.

Allen slowly, yet impatiently, approaches Diana.

“Wh-what are you going to do, Allen-donooo!?”

“I want to convey my feelings to you... will you listen to them?”

“Allen-dono's feelings——”

Allen walks behind Diana and pulls her against him. Diana's body jolts as if struck by lightning. Allen holds her close with his right arm to keep her from struggling. His broad chest is pressed tightly against her back and his pelvis is against her beautifully toned backside.

“N-no, please stop... this isn't something unmarried men and women should do...”

Diana turns her face away. Allen puts his left hand on her chin and forcibly turns her back towards him. The two stare at each other at a distance where they can feel each other's breath.

“Diana, I want to protect you.”

“Ha-haah...”

“An assassin who fails their mission, do you know how they'll be treated by their employer?”

He feels Diana's body stiffen.

The mastermind cannot leave be an assassin who failed in their mission. They will try to get rid of the assassin before they can give away information. Given the nature of the mastermind behind Diana, Allen cannot image that actually happening though.

“I-I... but what should I do...”

It seems that was enough to fuel Diana's anxiety. Allen hugs her tightly and whispers gently in her ear...

“Let me protect you, Diana.”

“Nnm...♥ But, why would you do that...♥”

Diana's eyes began to take on sex appeal. Her flustered gaze was clearly waiting for Allen's words. She wanted it. The answer that would delight her body...

“Diana, I love you.”

“Nnnn♥ Nnngg♥ haa...♥ haa...♥”

Diana closes her eyes, bites her lip, and tries to suppress the emotions that are about to overflow from her body. Sweat soaks the back of her body tights, creating a churning heat between the two of them. Allen can feel the beating of her racing heart through his own chest.

The weak point that will completely break down Diana is already in sight. Allen takes her by surprise and bites her right ear softly.

“Yahnn♥ A-Allen-donoo...♥”

Diana’s eyes are streaked with tears and a sweet voice leaks out of her.

Allen strokes her body as he had done at the beginning. From her narrow waist to her flank. From her inner thigh to the base of her foot.

“No, not there♥ If you touch me there, I’ll go..... maah♥”

Diana is trembling uncontrollably, even though he is doing the same thing as before.

Her refined, virtuous demeanor and her pride as a female knight, forged through rigorous training, both are about to melt away in the heat of her body. What remains underneath is the passionate sexuality of a woman.

“I’m in love with you, Diana.”

“Ah♥ ah♥ ah♥”

Diana’s mind is so bewildered, she has turned into an idiot that cannot even speak properly. Her sloppy gaze is transfixed by Allen’s dreaminess.

This will be the final push.

“Diana, leave everything to me.”

Allen licks the nape of Diana’s neck. The taste of salty sweat spreads in his mouth, and he can tell how aroused she is.

“Nii♥ St-stop iiit♥ that place is...hiii♥”

Allen holds her body with all his strength to steady convulsions. Then Diana suddenly relaxes and hangs her head limply.

“Please... protect me...♥ I’ll leave it to, Allen-dono...♥”

“Well said, Diana.”

Allen can tell that her words are honest. He supports Diana’s body and calls to Elphilia.

“Remove the shackles!”

“R-right away!”

Once Elphilia removes the shackles, Allen carries Diana to the treatment bed. Diana had fainted as soon as her tension broke.

“Somehow it worked out...”

Right when Allen is at ease after finishing his job as a high-ranking interrogator...

“Fufu... where did you learn such a passionate approach?”

...Elphilia snuggles up to him, her soft but elastic bust pressing against his sweat-soaked back.

The bra she is wearing has become so soaked with a mixture of their sweat that its texture is all but intangible, so it feels as if her supple skin is touching him directly. The shape of her squished breasts can be clearly recognized, even down to the protruding tips of her nipples.

“Hey, wait, Elphilia-sama! I’m sweaty right now...”

“Oh? But you were so close to Diana, weren’t you?”

“That was an interrogation, so I couldn’t help it!”

Allen rushes away from Diana.

“Diana is an extremely naive girl, so I figured it would be effective to sweet-talk her like that.”

The hint came from the recent picnic. Elphilia-sama and Rebecca’s favorite book series, “The Princess’s Secret”, Diana said she was too embarrassed to read it. However, Allen guessed that this was actually a sign of her interest in the series, and that she was probably more fascinated with the series than anyone else.

Since Allen had read the book, he could easily imitate lines the main character would say, but...

“I said such embarrassing things...”

...Allen becomes self-conscious looking back on it.

Elphilia smiles mischievously.

“Maybe I should ask you to whisper sweet words like that to me sometime.”

“Ah... please let that be a joke...”

Diana wakes up while they are talking to each other.

“Nnn, nmmm..... Allen-dono.....”

“You did your best, Diana. You can get some rest, okay?”

“I have to... I have something important to tell you.....”

Allen can see that how serious Diana is. Allen holds her hand gently at the bedside.

“Diana, who planned the attack?”

“It..... It was.....”

Diana finally reveals the identity of the mastermind.

“...The First Princess, Gabriella Virginia-sama.”

(I knew it...)

Allen unthinkingly turns to Elphilia.

She also has a expression that says, “I knew...”

Rather, why did she think she wouldn't be found out with a plan like this?
Allen guesses she is confident they would never get solid evidence...

“Have mercy. Please forgive Gabriella-sama!”

Diana anxiously squeezes Allen's hand back.

“Gabriella-sama's orders were to take Elphilia-sama away and lock her up in a summer villa..... we had no intention of hurting her, much less aiming for her life.”

“Diana, I believe your words.”

Elphilia nods firmly. Allen didn't feel a lie from Diana's words.

“I guarantee your safety. If you can't return to Gabriella-onee-sama, you can live in my princess palace. I'm going to stop her pointless activities. At that time, I hope you can safely return to your mistress.”

“Thank you, Elphilia-sama...”

Diana is so happy that she tears up. After she calms herself, she casts her eyes down anxiously.

“But, am I really allowed to be here?”

“Eh? Why wouldn't you?”

“Um, maybe I'm misunderstanding, but... Elphilia-sama and Allen-dono... you like each other, don't you?”

Allen notices his heart is suddenly pounding.

(Elphilia-sama and I like each other? I admire her, sure, but it's not like I have any personal feelings for her... Besides, Diana's understanding is that I'm openly trying to two-time!)

Either way, first of all, he has to clear up the misunderstanding that Diana has. If he doesn't tell her that it was a honey trap, she's such a naive girl that... she may not figure it out for the rest of her life.

“Diana, about that—”

“Fufu♥ that's right♥”

Just as Allen is about to clear up the misunderstanding, Elphilia blushed gleefully.

“E, Elphilia-sama!?”

“It seems that Allen can't be satisfied by just one person... But that's what it means to be young, right♥? It's not enough for him to just make a princess his own. He said he had to protect his female knight junior too... I love how reliable he is though♥”

Elphilia hugs Allen's arm, sandwiching him between two soft bulges, and whispers in a voice that only he can hear.

“For now, let's leave it like this.”

“Why is that?”

“Diana is now worried that she has been abandoned by Gabriella-onee-sama. I think love is the best way to cheer up an anxious soul. And like me, I don't think she would feel uncomfortable about being treated as ‘Allen's lover’. “

“I see...”

Instead of feeling ashamed to stay at Elphilia's princess palace under her protection, she would be allowed to live there as a mistress whom the princess admits. It seems there is a big difference in how Diana would feel about these two possibilities.

(I'm worried about posing as Elphilia's lover, but this is only until Gabriella's plan is stopped. The idea of posing as a two-timer is disturbing though.....)

Allen decides to temporarily accept the role of boyfriend, for both women.

"Please be assured that I will protect you as well as Elphilia-sama."

"Th-thank you! Allen-dono!"

Diana clasps Allen's hand tightly. The look in her eyes is as pure as when she was a member of the Royal Order.

The tension seems to have broken again. Diana closes her eyes and falls into a peaceful sleep.

Allen uses the speaker tube in the interrogation room to instruct Kurone to bring her a change of clothes.

Elphilia's expression tightens sharply.

"Tomorrow, as soon as Diana's physical strength recovers, I will go to Gabriella-onee-chan. I'll have her admit her responsibility for the attack and stop the meaningless succession battle... If the methods escalate, the succession battle could be exposed to outsiders."

"Gabriella-sama... I don't think she'll be so quick to confess."

"I can't call Gabriella-onee-sama to a public questioning as long as I want to keep the succession battle a secret. So my last resort will be——"

"A high-ranking interrogator, is that it?"

Allen shudders with anticipation.

He spanked Elphilia's ass to prove his qualifications, but this time he is really going to have to interrogate a princess of the kingdom. Unlike all the interrogations so far, the risk of failure is immeasurable. It would definitely give Gabriella an excuse to annul Elphilia's right to the throne, or worse. Allen himself has no guarantee he will keep his life...

(What is this rush of excitement when I can't afford to fail?)

Allen remembers his days in the Royal Order. Whenever he entered a battlefield, he used to have a similar feeling of exhilaration.

"Fufu... I'm getting excited too."

...Elphilia speaks in a lusty voice while tracing her body with her fingertips...

"But tomorrow will be an important interrogation. Let's get some rest early today."

"I would appreciate that."

The village survey, Diana's attack, and the interrogation... Allen was frankly surprised and impressed by her stamina, which still remains strong even after all that she had been through today. Although, she loses her footing as soon as she gets a good smack on the bottom.

"I'm sorry to have kept you waiting... Wow! This is quite a scene!"

Kurone comes to the interrogation room carrying a towel. Allen hides his grimace as he recalls the embarrassing lines he said.

Chapter 6 - Gabriella, Dizzy at the Reading Session

It is the morning after Diana's interrogation. Shortly after Allen finishes getting dressed, a knock comes from the door of his room. When he opens the door, Kurone is standing outside with a straight posture.

“Good morning, Allen-sama.”

“Good morning, Kurone. It's rare for you to be here so early.”

“Elphilia-sama has invited you to dine with her.”

“I've just finished changing clothes. Let's head over right away.”

Allen heads to Elphilia's room with Kurone.

Elphilia is busy, and she sometimes falls asleep after midnight and wakes up before dawn. Therefore, it is rare for her to invite Allen to breakfast, as their morning schedules seldom align.

When they enter Elphilia's room, he finds Diana there.

“Allen-dono, good morning!”

In the center of the room, there is a table larger than the tea table that Elphilia normally uses. Diana stands up from her chair and bows deeply toward Allen. Her junior-like behavior makes him smile.

“Good morning, Diana. Did you sleep well last night?”

“Yes! Before I knew it, I had my clothes changed...”

“That was done by Kurone.”

“I-is that so!? I thought that Allen-dono had...”

Diana’s face turns red from her misunderstanding this morning.

(What kind of man am I in Diana’s mind?)

Allen puts that aside for now.

It was probably Elphilia’s idea to invite Diana to breakfast as soon as possible. In order to interrogate Gabriella, it will be necessary to have Diana testify in front of her. The pressure on Diana must be considerable, so she wants to encourage her starting early in the morning.

All of this is to stop the futile succession battle and to make the interrogation a success.

(Elphilia-sama is so considerate of me...)

Allen too is feeling excited this morning.

“Now, let’s sit and eat.”

Elphilia urges Allen and Diana to sit at the table. Breakfast is a double layer of pancakes, drizzled with a colorful fruit syrup, and a soft, sweet aroma drifts around. Kurone serves them hot tea, and the accompanying fragrance arouses their appetite. Allen and the others begin to dig in to the pancakes.

“As soon as we finish breakfast, we will head to Gabriella-once-sama’s princess palace.”

Elphilia’s words startle Diana, but she quickly composes herself.

“...I’m ready.”

“I’m glad to hear you say so, Diana.”

“I don’t understand why Gabriella-sama, the first in line to the throne, is trying to sabotage Elphilia-sama, the second in line to the throne. It may be cowardly of me to say this now, but I too had doubts about yesterday’s mission. That is why... I also want to stop Gabriella-sama’s tantrum.”

Allen can sense in Diana a resolve that comes from her love of Gabriella. If her mistress is heading down the wrong path, she is willing to disobey orders for her sake. Diana’s chivalry is clearly visible to Allen.

“Allen-dono, please help Gabriella-sama.”

“Hmm, leave it to me. This interrogation will go well, too.”

Rather, they only have one chance for the interrogation to succeed.

Causing any harm to Gabriella, a member of the royal family, would be inexcusable. Fortunately, yesterday’s episode with Diana showed Allen that his interrogation techniques don’t need to rely too much on physical methods such as spanking and tickling. It will probably be necessary to consider unorthodox techniques this time as well.

After finishing breakfast, Allen and his companions gather at the entrance hall to prepare for their departure. Allen, Elphilia, Kurone, and Diana are the four people who will head to Gabriella’s princess palace. Yet for some reason, Marie and Rebecca are waiting in the entrance hall when they arrive.

“Good morning!”

Marie approaches Allen’s group, her tail wagging behind her.

“You’re going to catch the mastermind, right? Right? Well, the time has finally come! Time to punish the villainous princess who sent me on such a dangerous job! Let’s all do our best today!”

“Wasn’t it your own decision to accept the job though?”

She must have known it would be a dangerous job, but she was enticed by the high pay. It’s impossible for Marie to remember something that is

inconvenient for her though...

Kurone sighs loudly.

“Marie, you should be quiet and practice your writing.”

“I can’t just sit still on such a festive day like this!”

“What you’re saying is disrespectful!”

Kurone and Marie begin arguing as soon as they see each other. The relationship between them is still the same.

“Allen-sama, Elphilia-onee-sama, please do be careful!”

Rebecca is looking at them with her eyes full of tears. Elphilia smiles at her.

“Don’t worry. I’m sure we’ll be able to get through to Gabriella-onee-sama. And you know firsthand how good Allen is at interrogations, don’t you?”

“Y-yes♥”

With her cheeks dyed red, Rebecca looks up at Allen.

“It was really... amazing...♥”

“I only gave instructions. It was Elphilia-sama who actually did all the work that time...”

“That’s not it! It was Allen-sama who gave me the courage to speak up! I felt really bad at that time. I had done something wrong and was being blamed for it, but before I knew it that feeling turned into encouragement from you...”

As for Allen, he didn’t mean to do anything weird. Interrogation requires a certain kind of affection... For Rebecca, that affection was there from the beginning and never changed.

There are limits to interrogation techniques that hurt the subject. Instead, the trick is to give them encouragement after you have shaken their emotions.

Allen has met Gabriella only a few times. Somehow, he has to find a hint from those encounters.

“Allen, let’s get going.”

Elphilia calls out to him. Then Marie hugs Rebecca’s back for some reason.

“Then, we’ll do our best too!”

“Ma-Marie-san, we have to keep it a secret from everyone!”

Whatever secret Rebecca is trying to keep is spilled because of Marie. Are they planning to throw a celebration party when the interrogation is over?

Allen and his companions board the carriage waiting in front of the princess palace. While traveling in the carriage together, the atmosphere becomes a little heavy.

“Umm... may I ask you a question?”

Diana asks Elphilia, who is sitting across from her.

“Gabriella-sama... what was she like when she was little?”

Allen is interested in this question. He has never heard any stories about Gabriella’s childhood.

“Ever since I was a little girl, I looked up to Gabriella-onee-sama.”

Elphilia gazed into the distance through the carriage window, thinking back many years earlier.

“Among the six princesses of the Kingdom of Virginia, it was said that Gabriella’s kindness and intellect stood out in particular. Even when I was neglected because of all my mischief, Gabriella-onee-sama tried her best to

reason with me. If only I had listened, I might have recovered more quickly.”

Was Gabriella really once kind to Elphilia? Allen has trouble imagining it.

“She learned to speak six languages before she was ten years old, she played original songs with the skill of a master pianist, she could easily reconcile arguments between adults... People from both inside and outside of the royal palace, from adults to children, even people visiting from other countries, acknowledged Gabriella-once-sama’s talents.”

“Then, why did...”

Allen doesn’t finish his thought. But it is the same thing that anyone who knows Gabriella would think.

“I don’t know either.”

Elphilia shook her head helplessly.

“Before I knew it, she became like a child...”

Vanity and rivalry.

The two seem to compose the whole of Gabriella today.

(If I get the chance, I’ll have to probe deeper into this one...)

While Allen is deep in thought the carriage arrives at the Gabriella’s princess palace. The palace has a flashy appearance on the outside. The central area where the princess lives looks like a castle, and the outer walls sparkle as if they are plastered with jewels. The lavish use of expensive building materials really shows her character.

When Allen’s group steps into the entrance hall, they notice a portrait of Gabriella displayed directly in front of the entryway. The portrait is huge, about five meters in height, and Gabriella’s looks dazzling with her proud face and golden dress.

“You’re here at last.”

Gabriella descends a staircase from the second floor of the atrium. She is dressed in the same glamorous, golden dress as in her portrait.

“Diana!”

Gabriella calls out as soon as she comes down to the ground floor. Diana is startled and bows her head so forcefully she almost hits it on the floor.

“I-I’m so sorry! I told them everything!”

“I don’t care about that.”

“Eh?”

Gabriella folds her arms and laughs fearlessly...

“Fufufu... Because I haven’t done anything wrong!”

It seems that she intends to play dumb.

With her bright emerald eyes, she challenges Elphilia.

“I was wondering why Diana didn’t return, but I never thought she was staying with Elphilia. But now that she’s back like this, I’m relieved. Thank you so much for taking the trouble to bring her back.”

“Listen to me, Gabriella-sama!”

Diana falls to her knees and clings to Gabriella’s chest.

“I don’t want Gabriella-sama to commit any more crimes! Not only that, but if this continues, the conflict will become known to the outside world, and it will be a big mess! The kingdom is in danger!”

“Now, now, I have no idea what you’re talking about...”

Gabriella pats Diana’s head with a coy look.

“Were you lonely because you weren’t by my side? There, there...”

“Gabriella-once-sama.”

Elphilia takes a step forward with a stern look on her face.

“I would like to confirm some of the testimony Diana has told me. Will you accompany me to my palace?”

“I would love to. I was hoping to settle things with you.”

Gabriella steps between Diana and Elphilia and unexpectedly agrees.

Allen is thinking this cannot actually be that easy.

“But I have one condition.”

As expected, a demand comes from Gabriella.

“I can talk to from now until noon, less than three hours. I have lunch plans with a guest from a neighboring country, and I’ll be busy all afternoon and evening. It’s hard for our schedules to line up, after all. It’s not every day that we both have free time.”

“I accept.”

Elphilia has no choice but to accept these terms. If she misses the opportunity to interrogate Gabriella here, she will be given all kinds of excuses and will never get a second chance. There is no choice but to accept such unfavorable conditions. Gabriella, who had been well respected by adults, seemed to have a good head on her shoulders.

“And if you aren’t able to get anything out of me——”

“I know. I will renounce my right to the throne.”

“Fufu... I wouldn’t ask for that. I’m not interested in the succession battle.”

Allen expects Gabriella’s statement is intended to make her seem innocent.

But then this girl makes an unexpected request.

“What I want is... the guard there... You!”

Gabriella’s choice is none other than Allen.

(Why me? Didn’t I scare her the first time we met?)

To Allen’s bewilderment, Gabriella continues excitedly.

“I know all about it, you know. I know that you are the reason why Elphilia is back on her feet! I thought there was something wrong with her because she brought in a knight who couldn’t even fight properly... So she was using you for emotional support. It’s fascinating. I’d love to have you on my side!”

Allen was under the impression she was intelligent, but isn’t she just a child who is envious of other people’s toys.

(But it may not be a bad proposition. It’s a cheap price if I’m the only sacrifice, and Elphilia will surely find a new high-ranking interrogator. No problem.)

Allen thinks so, but...

“N-no way! That’s too much!”

Suddenly, Elphilia changes her tone of voice and says something whiny.

“Allen is my precious... he’s, precious—”

“I accept.”

Without waiting for Elphilia’s approval, Allen accepts Gabriella’s proposition. His words surprise Elphilia, who is still trying to get her thoughts together.

“Wait, Allen! If the interrogation fails, you will have to leave me—”

“Elphilia-sama, I have one question for you...”

Allen turns around, looks Elphilia in the eyes and asks her...

“Do you think the man you chose will fail in this interrogation?”

“No-no... I don’t.....”

Elphilia blushes as soon as she says this.

“I don’t think you will, but.....”

“You can trust in my abilities that you’ve confirmed with your own body, can’t you?”

Allen whispers in her ear, and Elphilia gives a small nod in response. He sees her downcast eyes and feels an urge to gently stroke her hair to comfort her. Elphilia is still a sixteen-year-old girl, after all. Of course she would be sad to lose the follower she spent so much time with.

“Th-that was... a pretty cool thing to say...”

Gabriella takes a deep gulp.

“But you’ll have to give up. When we return from Elphilia’s palace, you will belong to me.”

“It won’t come to that. I’ve sworn to serve Elphilia-sama for the rest of my life.”

“I’m getting more and more eager to get my hands on you... Now let’s get going!”

With this, the first step of getting Gabriella out of the princess palace is a success.

(I’ll definitely make the interrogation a success. My pride as a high-ranking interrogator is on the line!)

Allen secretly suppresses his trembling.

After returning to Elphilia's princess palace, Gabriela was immediately taken into custody and transferred to the underground interrogation room. Less than three hours were left... No, there were only about two hours left once they were ready to begin, after the negotiation and transportation.

Her attitude had been so confident before. Allen had expected her to take the questioning in stride.

That is what Allen had expected, but...

“Uhiii!?”

Gabriella jumps in surprise when the bars of the interrogation room slam shut. She even runs up to the bars and starts shaking them.

“Did you lock it? Did you really just lock me in!?”

“If we don't lock it, there's a chance you'll run away.”

“I won't run away! It's just the lack of windows that is making me nervous.”

“Anyway, please step away from the bars.”

Allen has no choice but to grab Gabriella by the shoulders.

The moment he does...

“Stop, stop it! Don't touch me!”

Gabriella falls down on her bottom. Tears begin to well up in her emerald eyes.

“Dianaaa! Help me, Dianaaa!”

“If you're so afraid, then why did you pretend to be so tough...”

“I am Diana’s mistress! I have to be strong in front of her!”

Well, that may be true. If she acted like this in front of her subordinates they would lose confidence in her.

“And... Hey! Elphilia, what’s with that shameless outfit!”

Gabriella bares her teeth in a menacing way.

“What this?”

As usual, Elphilia has stripped down to her underwear in the interrogation room.

Perhaps it meant to be like a type of battle underwear... The passionate crimson lingerie wraps around her ample breasts and hips. Even though she has a petite and slender body, the meat of her most attractive parts is so plump that no matter how many times Allen sees them, he will never tire of admiring her.

“I’m your sister, so I have to say this! As your sister, I absolutely cannot condone you showing your underwear to a man while you’re unmarried! He’s not even a nobleman or a royal, he’s just a guy who’s a little good looking!”

Allen groans quietly to himself as her words hit him like a bullet. He can never reveal that he had previously witnessed Elphilia sunbathing in the nude.

“But, interrogation can get your clothes dirty...”

“If you’re worried about getting dirty, why don’t you just use the clothes you wear when you pick wildflowers or something!?”

“.....!!”

Elphilia makes an expression like she had never thought of that idea. Then she shakes her head as if to dismiss any unwanted thoughts.

“No, I prefer to dress like this. When I’m in the interrogation room, I want to abandon my status as the second princess... I want to get rid of the conceit that I have inside of me. If onee-sama will allow it, I would like to take off even this underwear and perform the interrogation completely naked.”

“Haa—— Okay, okay! Underwear is fine, underwear is.....”

Gabriella is completely overwhelmed by Elphilia’s forceful statement. A bead of sweat trickles down her forehead.

“Also, I would appreciate it if you would take off your clothes as well, Gabriella-onee-sama. That way you don’t have to worry about soiling your nice dress.”

“Y-you want me to take off my dress in front of this man!?”

Gabriella shoots Allen a look of disgust.

“I am neither royalty nor nobility. You can think of me as a squire who helps you get dressed...”

“I don’t let men change my clothes!”

“If you won’t undress, we’ll have to restrain your hands instead. If you have a weapon hidden inside your dress and you unexpectedly resist, we’ll be in trouble.”

“That’s... No, you don’t have to do that! I just have to take off... take off...”

Gabriella cuts off her sentence and begins to take off her golden dress.

“Honestly... Why is this happening to me!?”

She takes off her voluminous, frilly dress, exposing her hidden body to the open air.

At that moment, Allen gasps.

“Wow...”

The girl next to him, Elphilia, has a twinkle of admiration in her eye despite being the same sex.

It's no wonder she's fascinated.

If Allen had to describe Gabriella's body, it would be one word: perfect.

Slender arms and legs and a trim waist. Her breasts, just barely covered by the palm of her hand, and her perky butt are truly elegant, and the way her sexy black lingerie pushes upward made them look taut and firm.

Despite still being in her teens, she cannot be called immature. Her body is beautifully put together, stripped of anything unnecessary.

If Elphilia is the goddess of love, Gabriella could be called the goddess of beauty.

Either way, as a man, Allen finds her attractive and sexy...

“Guh... You think I have a poor body, don't you!?”

Gabriella glares at Elphilia's petite but plump body.

Allen tells her how he honestly feels.

“I don't believe that one bit. I find your body refined and beautiful.”



What bothers him is that Gabriella's body is so perfect that he is having trouble coming up with an effective interrogation method. It was hard for him to see any weaknesses in Diana's well-trained body, but Gabriella's body, which she must have trained through daily fitness and moderation, shows absolutely no signs of weakness.

"Hu-huh? Well, I don't know if I agree with you, but..."

Gabriella's expression softens slightly as she considers how to take Allen's words.

"If you live a humble life like me, your mind and body will be sharpened naturally. Now that I've taken off my dress, let's get on with the interrogation!"

With the interrogation ready to begin, Allen finally switches his mind to work mode.

"Gabriella, I'm going to interrogate you now."

"Haah!? Wh-why are you addressing me so casually!?"

"In here, you are just a subject to be interrogated. In the same way that Elphilia has abandoned her status as a princess and is serving me here as my assistant. And as a high-ranking interrogator, you will absolutely obey my commands."

"Isn't that a position Elphilia came up with on her own..."

Gabriella folds her arms and purses her lips in frustration.

"...And since Elphilia is so full of self-sacrificing spirit, she must have tested your interrogation methods on her own body, hasn't she? If that the case, go ahead and do the same thing to me. I'll clear it with ease!"

"Hmm..."

None of Gabriella's weaknesses can be seen so far. The obvious first step would be to try to shake her with some physical force, but if she is left with bruises on her body, even if she confesses to being the mastermind, it would be Elphilia's faction that will ultimately be ruined. Then what would happen if he tried spanking Gabriella's slender, little ass...

Allen is having a hard time making a quick decision.

"It's okay, Allen."

Elphilia, using his shoulder for support, stretches up as high as she can on her toes and whispers in his ear.

"Girls are much stronger than boys think. They don't get hurt so easily by a spanking. You are too gentle. You can be a little rougher with her."

Allen feels like she is talking about herself too.

Her breath in his ear tickles him exquisitely. Allen represses the dangerous urge that wells up deep within his chest.

(I'm a high-ranking interrogator, I have to compose myself and perform the interrogation.)

"Gabriella, I'm going to spank you now."

"Eh, what——"

Allen has to stop Gabriella from running away. Taking advantage of her surprise, Allen lifts her up on his shoulders.

"St-stop! Th-this! Stupid!"

When he picks her up, he is surprised at how light her body is. It is not much different from the Elphilia's petite body.

Gabriella struggles to get free, but no matter how much she resists with her light and slender body, there is no way she can escape from his firm grasp around her torso.

With Gabriella's body firmly planted on his shoulder, Allen slaps her on the ass.

A high-pitched sound, like a pop, echoes through the interrogation room. As soon as it does...

“Fugyaaaaa——!!”

Gabriella lets out a scream completely devoid of girlishness. A bright red handprint marks the spot where she was hit.

“Wait, wait, wait! It hurts a hundred times more than I expected! This is not an interrogation, it's torture!”

“Oh, but you asked me to give you the same treatment that Elphilia was subjected to.....”

“Ogre! Demon! Fiend!”

Gabriella waves her arms and legs in the air, tears streaming down her face.

Gabriella, with tears streaming down her face, waves her arms and legs in the air.

Allen is left with no choice but to let her down, and she runs to the treatment bed and pulls the blanket over her head. She peeks out from under the blanket, her eyes wide open, and her whole body is trembling as if freezing.

“Elphilia, this is... Didn't you say girls are supposed to be strong?”

“Maybe that doesn't apply to Gabriella-onee-sama... s-sorry.”

Elphilia is unusually upset. It seems that Gabriella's delicacy is far beyond her imagination.

(I'm going to have to change my approach to this interrogation...)

Allen nestles in close to Gabriella, who is wrapped up in the blanket. He then reaches out his fingertips to the sole of her foot that is sticking out of the blanket and tickles it.

“Hyah!”

Gabriella jumps out of the blanket and crawls around the interrogation room. When Allen hurriedly gives chase after her, she hugs Elphilia’s hips and hides behind her, just as she had done with Diana.

“Wh-what the hell... You’re a man, so why are you touching my body.....”

Gabriella buries her face in Elphilia’s ass and refuses to even look at me.

The only sound in the interrogation room is her wailing and crying.

(No good... No amount of physical torture is going to work on her.)

This is like chastising a small child!

It was difficult to interrogate Diana, who was able to get through physical torture due to her intense training, but Gabriella’s interrogation is going to be far more difficult.

The act of confessing and admitting guilt requires a certain amount of rationality. It is because of rationality that the person being interrogated can begin to doubt whether they should continue to resist confessing.

However, in Gabriella’s case, the slightest physical shock will cause her rationality to collapse, and she will immediately start crying like an upset child. Interrogating Gabriella like this is as good as questioning a baby who has not learned to speak.

Allen realizes that this is a fundamentally wrong way to question her.

(Explain things slowly, as if you were talking to a child... No, there isn’t time for that!)

There is less than an hour and a half left. It is impossible to turn a baby into an adult in such a short time.

“All right, Gabriella. I won’t hit you or tickle you anymore. In return, I want you to admit that you ordered the attack against Elphilia. And promise me that there will be no more pointless succession battles.”

How much less hassle would it be if she surrenders with this...

As expected, as soon as she hears those words...

“Pfft... I won’t accept that!”

Gabriella suddenly becomes energetic, and with a proud expression, she rejects the demand.

“I am the first princess, and you have cast unjust suspicion on me, locked me in a dungeon, and abused me... When this interrogation is over, both of you better be prepared! Gabriella Virginia will not be intimidated by any unreasonable interrogation!”

“Don’t make such a convenient interpretation.”

“Everything works in the royalty’s favor... That is what makes the kingdom work!”

Indeed, that idea is how royalty would think.

Even after being locked up in the interrogation room, Gabriella still has the feeling that everything is centered around her.

It is then that Allen heard Kurone’s voice coming from the other side of the bars.

“Allen-sama! Please come over here!”

“Elphilia, take care of Gabriella.”

“Okay.....”

Allen opens the barred door and steps out of the interrogation room.

In the shadows of the stairs leading down to the interrogation room, not only Kurone but also Marie and Rebecca are waiting for him.

“Allen-sama, please take this! I’m sure it has something useful in it!”

Rebecca hands him a thick book.

It is a magnificent, leather-bound journal.

“I brought it from the first princess’s room♥”

Marie sticks out her tongue and makes a double peace with pride.

“The princess’s room was also warded with magic, but Rebecca made a hole in it for me. Thanks to her, I was able to sneak in easily. Praise me, Allen-sama♥”

“I-I’m sorry! We wanted to be useful to Allen-sama.....”

Rebecca’s eyes well up from her apology. Allen gently pats the two girls on the head.

“Thank you, both of you. This will help with the interrogation.”

The leather-bound book is probably Gabriella’s diary. It might contain clues to her weaknesses or her plans for the attack.

Marie, who is in a good mood, rubs up against him and says in a feline voice...

“Fufufu... As a reward, you can spend all night snuggling with me, Allen-sama♥”

“Ma-Marie-san, that’s not fair... ah, no, I mean...♥”

Rebecca blushes in embarrassment as her true feelings accidentally come out. They are both adorable compared to Elphilia’s boldness.

“Thank you, I’ll be sure to repay you both for this later.”

Allen also says a few words to Kurone.

“If something goes wrong, I’ll call you with the speaker tube. Stay on standby.”

“Yes, sir.”

Leaving Marie and Rebecca with Kurone, Allen returns to the interrogation room with the diary in hand.

He beckons Elphilia over to him and they decide to check the contents of the diary together.

“Marie and Rebecca brought this diary to me...”

Allen flips through the pages of leather-bound book. The book is thick, and nearly half of it is filled with long, handwritten sentences.

“Ah!?”

Suddenly, Gabriella makes a muffled sound.

Allen reads the beginning of a passage to her.

“A Gabriella Virginia Work, ‘Princess’s Secret Series: Side Story’..... I get it. So this is a fan fiction that you wrote based your fantasies about that romance novel?”

“I-I d-don’t know anything about that!”

“In addition, the first princess, modeled after Gabriella, is given the lead role dethroning the second princess and original protagonist, who is based on Elphilia..... I can’t honestly imagine this being written by someone who isn’t interested in the succession battle.”

Since the author went to the trouble of making herself the main character based on a romance novel in which she herself was the model for a

character, it is only natural that her own desires would be expressed in the story. If it is this blatant, it is almost as if an actual criminal plan is being disguised as fan fiction.

“I don’t know anything about that! That piece of evidence is a forgery!”

“I want you to read it out loud and in your own voice to see if it’s a fake.”

“Ha, haah!? Why would I read a novel that I wrote myself——”

Gabriella’s eyes become black and white. The blood immediately drains from her face.

“If I don’t read this, you’re going to spread it all over the world, aren’t you? How could you think of such a cruel thing? All right, I’ll read it, I’ll read it!!”

Allen never thought any such thing, but if believing that would make her read her handwritten novel, he decides not to correct her. If he wants this to be accepted as real evidence, he cannot be picky about his methods.

Gabriella opens the book she had been handed and stares at the writing. Her face, which had been drained of blood, is now turning red.

Then, Elphilia unexpectedly calls out.

“Oh, um..... Allen.”

“What’s the matter, Elphilia?”

“Isn’t it a little too much, having to read your own novel out loud.....”

“Hmm? What’s wrong with that?”

Allen just wants Gabriella to confirm that the evidence is authentic.

“Gabriella, can you start at the beginning, please?”

“Y-ye-yes... From the be-beginning!”

Gabriella's reaction is noticeably different from before.

Her face is flushed with embarrassment, her mouth is agape, and she is acting as nervous as a child about to read out a love letter in front of the person she loves.

Her whole body is sweating profusely, and her inner thighs rub anxiously together in a way that would make anyone watching's heart flutter.

Gabriella's handwritten novel begins...

"Ga-Gabriella Virginia is the most beautiful princess in the world....."

It started with a sentence of ridiculous self-praise.

The fact that she wrote her real name, Gabriella, instead of just the first princess, shows that she was expressing her own desires in this novel.

"The knight was completely ca-captivated by Gabriella. It seems that he was once in love with Elphilia, but he admitted that it was a mistake and repented in front of Gabriella. Then Gabriella, who was kind, forgave the knight for his mistake. And so, the two were officially united as lovers."

"I see. The knight who was in love with the second princess fell in love with the first princess, who was originally the antagonist. This kind of "what if" scenario is one of the best parts of fan fiction. Very interesting... Go ahead, keep reading."

"Kuh... this is too cruel..."

Gabriella's face twists in frustration. Her hands tremble as she holds the handwritten novel.

"The knight visited Gabriella's be-bedroom today. He whispered sweet words in her ear as she lay sleeping. Gabriella, I lo-love... I love you..... As if ushered by the sweet words, the be-beautiful princess began to awake from her slumber."

"That's pretty good writing. And then what?"

“Y-you look lovely today, Gabriella. You are an angel that has come down to this world. I’ll never let you go. The knight whispered this and on her lips that were not fully awake, planted a tender k-ki-kiss... ah, ahh...”

Gabriella’s face is redder than ever, and her hands and feet are fidgeting.

She is sweating so much that when her inner thighs and crotch rub together it makes a splashing sound, as if she is covered in honey.

The underwear she is wearing has long since absorbed as much sweat as it can, becoming almost transparent and sticking to her soft skin.

Allen ignores such things however.

Allen is anxious to hear the rest of the novel. The princess who is the model for a character in the original story had written the fan fiction herself. As a fan himself, he is curious to see how the story would unfold from here.

‘I couldn’t hear you very well so far. Read that part again, loud and clearly.’

“Ehhh!?”

Gabriella’s eyebrows are raised in an exasperated expression.

Sweat runs down her face and drips onto the pages of her handwritten book. Allen is worried that the sweat would soak the words and make them unreadable.

Elphilia murmurs at the sight of this scene.

“Allen, you..... You come up with some really crazy and original ways of torturing people.”

“This is torture?”

For Allen’s part, he has no idea why this would be torture. Isn’t writing a novel supposed to be fun? If you think it’s interesting, you shouldn’t be ashamed to read it out loud.

“Th-the knight whispered these words and on her still half-asleep lips planted a tender... ki... Kiss! Their kisses became more and more intense, and... they sought each other’s touch with single-minded devotion. Their tongues crawled, they sucked, they drank. Forgetting their positions, they puh... piled their bodies on top of each other like animals.”

Gabriella’s lips are reading from her novel, with a bewitchingly wet tongue peeking out from behind them. She is only reading off the words, but it seems as if she is herself seeking a passionate kiss, and her glossy lips make it all the more seductive.

“As they exchanged melting kisses, the knight’s large hand slipped inside Ga-Gabriella’s dr-dre-dress..... he touched her secret place.....”

“Secret place? That’s a rather vague expression.”

Allen remembers the text in the original series used a more direct expression.

“Can you point me to what the specific area is?”

“Eh, eh, ah... who do you...!”

Gabriella snaps, baring her teeth at him and gnashing them in anger.

She places the bookmark string and closes the book in her hand, then uses the index fingers of both hands to point to her modestly sized breasts... She points to the pink protrusions that are showing through her black bra.

“B-b-boo-boobs! He touched her boobs! Boobs!”

“You don’t have to say it so many times. It’s your small, elegant breasts. I understand.”

If a girl who is so objectively cute calls out such words to him, the normal Allen would definitely be flustered.

However, Allen is currently in the middle of an interrogation, and at the same time he is in the middle of a literary exploration as a reader, so he has

no trouble asking his questions calmly like this.

“The knight squeezes Gabriella’s bountiful fruit, sometimes gently, sometimes violently.....”

“Isn’t ‘bountiful’ an inappropriate word here?”

“I have a nice body in this novel, you idiot!”

“I’ve always thought your body was beautiful in real life...”

“H-haah!?”

Gabriella jumps back in surprise, and glistening sweat splatters around her. She puts her hand on her chest as if to check her heartbeat.

“J-just because you have a nice face doesn’t mean you can say such weird things out of the blue.”

“Anyway, continue with the rest of the story.”

“Kuh... F-fine!”

Gabriella continues reading the novel while holding her chest with trembling hands.

“The knight’s tender yet fierce hands squeezed her b-brea-breasts, and a heat rose from the depths of her body. Gabriella’s whole body was sweating profusely, and the smell was not that of an innocent princess, but that of a woman in heat.....”

“That’s a wonderful description. I can almost really smell it.”

“The knight’s burly fingers and rough tongue tormented Gabriella as if he were dealing with a sinner. From her mouth... a... g-gasping v-voice leaked out..... ah, ahn... ha... haahaah... uuunn...”

“You’ve suddenly become flat in your reading. Put more emotion into it!”

Gabriella's lips are tightly pressed together and she is shivering. The way her spine twitches even though she has not been touched can only be described as seductive.

Not only in the novel, but in real life also, she is covered in sweat, and a sweet scent mixes with the fresh smell of sweat and spreads throughout the interrogation room, stirring Allen's male instincts.

Gabriella has to brace herself against the stone wall, and she runs her fingers from her knees to her thighs... up to her hips and then her waist. As her neatly trimmed fingernails dig slightly into the soft, sweat-glistening skin, the sensuality that has been smoldering deep in her chest is stoked to greater passions.

“Mmm♥”

Gabriella's mouth leaks out an awkward but perceptible moan.

“Haa♥ haa♥ mmmn.....♥”

“Elphilia, I need you to do something for me.”

“Ye-yes♥ it's my turn♥”

Allen covertly whispers into Elphilia's ear.

Gabriella is oblivious to the fact that Allen and Elphilia are talking in private right in front of her.

She wants to touch her body. But, she is afraid that if she does, something bad will happen to her.

Her conflicting feelings are conveyed through her troubled, melting face.

“Gabriella is... nn♥ wrapped up in... nnn♥ the atmosphere... Mmm♥ She takes off her dress and underwear, exposing her natural form to the night wind... Haa♥ knight, more♥ mess me up more♥ love my naked body♥ make me a slave to your love♥ Ah, ah, aaahhh♥”

Is the voice escaping her mouth a line written in the novel or...

Gabriella's emerald eyes have a bewitching glint in them that Allen has not seen before.

She is rubbing her inner thighs together, desperately trying to resist the tremors and stay standing, but her knees are almost touching the floor from how far she is bent over.

Then, the decisive moment finally comes.

“‘Tell me where you want me to touch you’... These words, whispered by the knight... hrm♥ cause Gabriella's adorable, angelic face to... haahn♥ to turn red... nnnmm♥ an-and she told him... ‘I-I want... I want you to touch me——’”

“Elphilia, now!”

Allen gives the order at the right time.

A moment later, Elphilia, who had circled around behind her and hid, reaches out with her fingers to Gabriella's weak spot... She gently but boldly pinches at the pink nubs that were showing through her bra.

“~~~~~♥♥♥”

Gabriella's whole body shudders violently and she lets out an inarticulate cry. Her wet underwear sticks tightly to her skin, and her pinched pink buds stick up in a cheeky way.

Sweat flies from her trembling body, sprinkling the floor around her with her sultry sexuality. Her body, shining with sweat, appears even more like a goddess of beauty. It is as if she is clothed in an offering of the finest nectar... The ultimate temptation of man.

“No... more...”

The last of her strength used up, Gabriella's body suddenly becomes slack.

She slumps down in the puddle of sweat that had formed.

"I... admit it. I'm a bad person, I admit it..."

Gabriella suddenly begins to cry.

There is a clear rationality and shame present in her tears. Clearly different from when she was spanked or tickled on the soles of her feet. These are the tears of a human being who knows she should be embarrassed. She has just now outgrown being a baby and has become an adult.

"In order to remove Elphilia-sama from the succession battle, you had Marie infiltrate her princess palace, sent a threatening letter to Rebecca, and tried to get Diana to kidnap her... Isn't that right?"

"You're right! That's right, so, leave me alone!"

"But why would you, the first in line to the throne, go to the trouble of removing the second in line, Elphilia-sama?"

"You... can you really say the same thing after reading that!"

When Gabriella says this, Allen immediately understands what she is talking about.

The Princess's Secret series, read by all the girls in the princess's palace, had become very popular because of its scandalous and realistic contents that depict not only extreme romance but also a succession battle taking place in the royal palace.

In the novel, the second princess becomes friends with a knight, while the first princess fails in every attempt to sabotage her, and is finally deprived of her right to the throne.

The story must seem all too realistic to Gabriella.

"When I first read it, I thought it was a prophecy."

Gabriella looks at Allen with a desperate smile. Allen can sense that she is telling the truth. About sending the assassins, and about having felt threatened by the novel.

“In the end, it was just like the novel said. When I was a kid, I was smarter than you, and people liked me better than you... But in no time at all, Elphilia turned the tables on me. After that, everything I tried went nowhere, and I found myself unable to even catch up.”

“Gabriella-once-sama.....”

The two princesses look at each other. Although they are only related on their father’s side, their forlorn profiles are very much alike.

“Elphilia, I wanted to win against you just one more time. I don’t care about the throne. I just hated myself for losing to my sister. But I guess I’ll never win against you. I wonder what my life was for.....”

“Gabriella-sama, excuse me.”

Allen lifts Gabriella’s body up in his arms.

It’s not the same as when he spanked her, this time he holds her in a proper princess carry.

“Wh-what the hell are you doing?”

“I’m going to wipe down your body.”

“No, no, stop! I’m so dirty... I’m covered in sweat...”

He sets Gabriella down on the treatment bed. Then he kneels down in front of her and carefully wipes her feet with a soft towel. The red nail polish on her toes glistens sexily.

When he next starts wiping her legs with the towel, despite the impression that her entire legs are slim, they are thicker than he expected, and even after undergoing the exhausting interrogation, they still display a beauty that makes Allen want to worship them.

“Gabriella-sama really did a good job.”

“Th-that not true..... nnn♥ you’re tickling my thighs♥”

“You endured the interrogation to the very end. You didn’t lose or give in. You have admitted your mistakes and taken a step toward being an adult... And I can’t think of anything dirty about such a testament to your growth.”

Allen lifts Gabriella’s right arm and carefully wipes her sweaty armpit with the towel.

Gabriella is very particular about her grooming, and her exposed armpit is as smooth as a boiled egg. Its damp appearance is as beautiful as a flower petal wet with morning dew.

The smell of sweat is crisp, but at the same time, it is also sweet, mixed with the smell of her perfume.

“Nn, kuu...♥ but, I... to Elphilia.....♥”

“Winning is not the only thing in life. That’s what I believe.”

While admonishing Gabriella, Allen wipes her left armpit with the towel as well. She bites her lip ticklishly, her cheeks blushing.

“I gave up my life as a knight because of the injuries to my legs. But I’m able to lead a new life here. Why don’t you take a break for a while, Gabriella-sama, and find a new way of life? If you stop trying so hard and let your fatigue heal, you will surely have a change of heart.”

“Do I... nnn♥ really not have to try so hard... mmm♥”

“Gabriella-sama, you can be yourself. You don’t have to hurt yourself anymore.”

“Then... I no longer have to hate myself...”

Gabriella pats her chest in relief. This is the first time Allen has seen her with a peaceful expression since he met her.

“Onee-sama!”

Elphilia hugs Gabriella, who has tears in her eyes and still has sweat over most of her body.

The two hug each other as if they had been doing so since they were children.

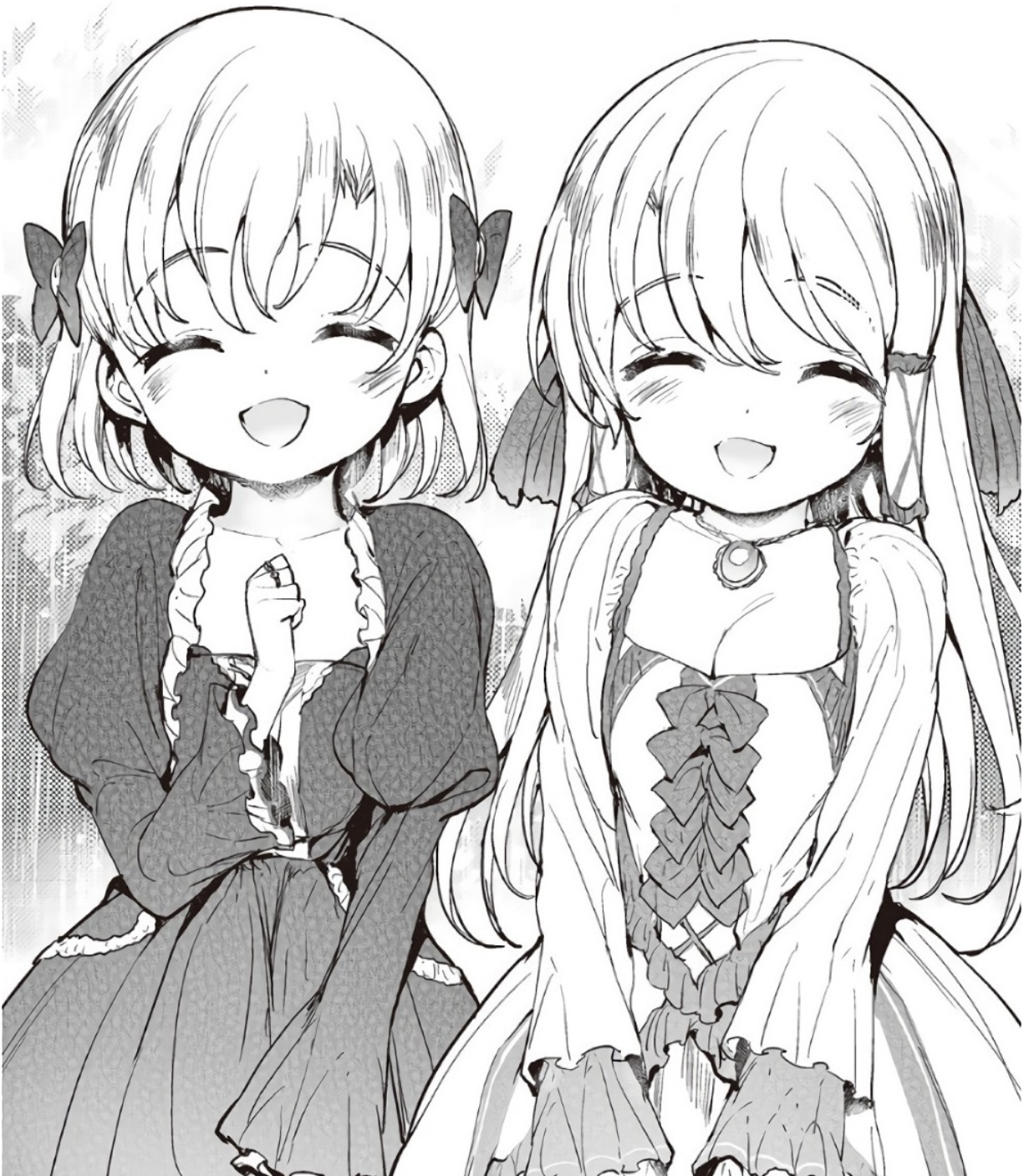
“I’m sorry, Elphilia. I’m sorry I hurt you... I’m sorry that I hurt your dear friends too... I don’t expect you to forgive me now. I’ll accept any punishment... No, I won’t be able to forgive myself unless you punish me!”

“I was the one who failed to notice your pain. You were the only one who cared for me when I was an unruly child... So, yes, let’s say we’re even now.”

Allen cannot help but appreciate the beautiful friendship between sisters.

At that moment, he catches sight of Gabriella’s handwritten novel that had fallen to the floor.

Between the last page and the back cover, which had happened to fall open, he spots a colored photograph.





Chapter 7 - Mischief and Commemorative Photos

A week has passed since Gabriella's interrogation. It seems that the succession battle that she caused has not been leaked to the outside world, and Allen and the others are able to spend their days in peace. The only thing that has become a rumor is that Gabriella's personality has become more well-rounded than before.

Gabriella is still the first in line of succession to the throne, and she has promised not to cause any unnecessary succession disputes. However, it is still unclear whether the king will nominate her as is customary or leave the decision to a referendum.

The fact that Elphilia is second in line to the throne has not changed either. However, the recent consolation visit had awakened in her an awareness of her duties as a royal. If something were to change in the future and she were to be chosen as the princess, she would be happy to fulfill her duties.

Regardless of what happens from now on, Allen will do his best to serve Elphilia.

He hopes there will not be any more succession disputes, but there are four other half-sisters living in the princess section besides Elphilia and Gabriella. He hopes they will be quiet, but if they decide to send their own assassins, then he will have to wield the power of a high-ranking interrogator again.

(Well, until then, I guess I'll just take it easy.....)

It's boring to be uptight all the time. Besides, today is the second picnic for all of them.

Allen, Elphilia, Kurone, Marie, and Rebecca... The five of them are gathered at the resting area by the lake, preparing for teatime. A tea stand is set up on a large round table, and colorful cakes and sweets are all ready to go.

"Fufu... So Gabriella was invited too."

"Thank you very much for having us here today."

Gabriella and Diana also came to the rest area. Their relationship seems to be going well lately, and from a distance they could be mistaken for sisters.

"Ah! It's the princess whose fan fiction novel was stolen by a thief she hired!"

"Marie the cat burglar, I'll never forgive you!"

Gabriella glares at Marie, who could not help but tease her.

Marie breaks into a pouting fit.

"I don't need your forgiveness! I'm having a great time here!"

"Haaa... Then you'd better get some good discipline while you're at it."

Gabriella smiles bitterly and looks resigned. She then speaks to Rebecca in a gentle voice.

"I did something really horrible to you. I'm sorry, Rebecca."

"Oh, no. My life has been so much better since then."

"But Allen's interrogation was painful for you, wasn't it?"

"No..... I mean, it was rather pleasant actually....."

Rebecca's face turns red as she recalls the interrogation. It must have been a rather over-stimulating experience for her, who adores Elphilia.

"Hmm, well... you're right. I guess it did feel good."

"What!? Was it the same for Gabriella-sama!?"

Rebecca turns her sparkling eyes toward Allen.

He expects it is a look of respect, but he cannot help but feel embarrassed.

"Thank you, Allen. Thanks to you, I feel much better now."

Gabriella's expression is more mature than before.

Then, standing tall on her toes, she whispers secretly to Allen...

"And... also... I haven't told anyone about this, but..... It's become a habit. Reading romance novels is... It doesn't feel good anymore if no one is listening to it....."

"I see, then... if you ask Diana to..."

"That's a cruel way to treat to a girl."

After Elphilia, this is the second time a woman has called him cruel.

(I thought I was just giving a common sense opinion...)

Allen will be in serious trouble if Gabriella starts calling on him too.

"Allen-dono, you called me!?"

Diana's eyes flash as she heard her name being said, and... obviously excited, she approaches them.

Allen never had a chance to clear up the misunderstanding since her interrogation, so she is still convinced that she had become Allen's second mistress.

“I wasn’t calling you just now... But we’ll speak later. I have something important to talk to you about.”

“Something important from Allen-dono! I’m starting to get nervous now.”

“Diana, take a deep breath first. I need you to calm down, at least during teatime.”

“Hooo... haaa... No, no, no! I can’t calm down!”

This might be getting out of control.

While Allen is worrying...

“I’m glad to be with you today, Gabriella-onee-sama.”

“Fufu... I’m also happy to be friends with my precious little sister.”

Elphilia and Gabriella are holding hands and smiling at each other in a friendly manner.

“There’s so much more I want to do with you than just picnics. We can have sleepovers, take baths together, and talk late into the night..... that sounded a little childish, didn’t it?”

“Not at all! I want to spend more time with you too, Gabriella-onee-sama!”

Listening to their conversation, Allen also feels like smiling.

Elphilia and Gabriella had been distant towards each other for more than ten years. It is only natural for them to try to regain their lost childhoods. Allen decides to spare no effort to help them repair their relationship.

“Everyone, we’re ready!”

Kurone calls out to the gathered party. She had prepared a photo machine made with the latest in magical technology. It has an automatic timer, so it can take pictures without the need for a photographer.

They all gather in front of the round table, including Kurone who had finished setting up the device. As usual, Elphilia stands next to Allen.

“Five seconds to go... four, three, two, one...”

As Kurone counts down the seconds, Elphilia smiles wickedly and unexpectedly intertwines her fingers with Allen’s. It is troubling that she would show her mischievous spirit even at a time like this.

There is no way he could admonish her at this moment, so he grabs her hand back tightly to prevent her from playing any more unnecessary pranks.

“Nnn...♥ Allen, right now, that’s...♥”

The shutter of the camera clicks at the same time that Elphilia’s face turns red.

The strange photograph in which she is the only one blushing for some reason, was thus left in the hands of Allen and his friends.

Afterword

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude. Mutsutake-san, who illustrated this work and drew the characters so attractively. The editor in charge of this work, who enthusiastically adopted the idea of this work. To all the readers who have read this work. Thank you very much!

[illegible]

As I write this afterword, I am waiting for the release of “Monster Hunter: World”. When fighting large monsters, it is normal to create a spacious field with few ups and downs, but this time “Monster Hunter” has both high and low points and narrow areas. While the increased machine power of game consoles has made it possible to represent realistic terrain, I was concerned that too much realism might make it difficult to fight large monsters... I was concerned about this, but after playing the beta version, it seems to be fine. I hope that by the time this book is published, I will be able to enjoy playing multiplayer...

Speaking of multiplayer, I heard that Dark Souls Remastered is also coming out, and I'm looking forward to seeing the reworked version of the game I've played so much of. Dark Souls has become easier to play (bonfire warps, equipment enhancements, etc.) as the series has progressed, so it would be great if the improvements could be imported back into the remastered version. After that, I hope they can develop a new series following "Dark Souls" and "Bloodborne"...

Speaking of remakes, I'm also looking forward to "Catherine: Full Body". When I heard that it was going to be made by the team behind "Persona", I even bought a PlayStation 3. I had a hard time with the devilish difficulty level, but the feeling of being pressed (in many ways) by those two beautiful women is unique! I recommend this game for adults and non-adults alike.

2017 was the first year of Uzuki Ryunosuke's open world (mainly "Breath of the Wild") and a new era of RPG (in the sense of "Dragon Quest 1" and "Undertale"). I want to play a lot of good games in 2018 and enrich my life in the future. Then, I would like to write an even more interesting novel with the inspiration and vitality gained from the game.